

# Kent on Sunday

www.kentnews.co.uk January 12, 2014

East Edition No 590

**PROFILE »**

## Our new top cop

Meet the man charged with moulding a force fit for a changing world

**FOCUS »**

**Moving on up**  
Properties in some areas are being bought within hours of going on sale... is the slump over?

**MOVIES »**

## A very different Daniel Radcliffe

We talk to the Harry Potter star about his new film and Kent links

**NEW FOR YOU 2014 »**

## How are those resolutions getting along?

Don't miss our guide to keeping everything that matters in good shape



Jason Manford – 21 Jan 7.30pm



Brendan Cole – 5 Feb 7.30pm



Big Time American Wrestling  
15 Feb 7pm



The Stranglers – 7 March 7pm  
(doors)

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## The county patches up storm damage as top cop eyes future

IT'S been a week of waiting and hoping, with fingers crossed, that we finally see the back of the stormy weather that has continued to disrupt the county in recent weeks.

While it would be unwise to hold your breath, with a gap in the extreme weather upon us, authorities are taking the chance to start the mammoth task of repairing the damage – including patching up the seemingly hundreds of potholes blighting our roads.

Meanwhile, the new top cop at Kent Police, who is more than likely going to have to weather a few storms himself in the wake of yet more cuts, has spoken to us about the challenges ahead, keeping up morale within the force and how he intends to put policing back into communities.

His hope is to revive a Dixon of Dock Green-style policing, bringing back that traditional neighbourhood bobby on the beat.

Which leads nicely to something else making a bit of a comeback: allotments.

Once a necessity when families were trying to rein in the spending as the post-war recession gripped, growing your own food has become popular again as society gets almost fanatical about local produce.

Which is all good for Kent of course, being the Garden of England and all. Inside, we speak to some allotment-holders.

But while there were celebrations for the green-fingered among us, for others it has proved a difficult week as the contentious welfare reforms continue to bite.

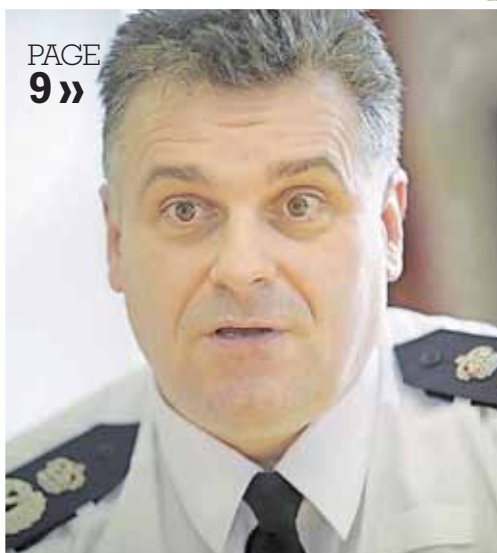
Hundreds of housing-support claimants were issued with eviction notices from one of the county's landlords, who understands that such tenants could fall into arrears as a result of changes to welfare.

He tells us why the controversial decision was made.

So, a mixture this week of old revivals and new horizons, with all the challenges they bring.

Have a good weekend and let's hope the stormy weather is behind us for a long time to come.

PAGE  
9»



PAGE  
14»



PAGE  
30»



PAGE  
53»



PAGE  
37»



## Contents

### News

#### 9 Chief laying down the law

Marijke Cox talks to county's top officer

#### 12 Improvement brick by brick

Experts say property market is on the move

#### 14 Plotting a revolution

Attraction of running an allotment on rise

#### 19 Move over, Harry Potter

Daniel Radcliffe is in new, racy, territory

#### 23 More power to the victim

PCC Anne Barnes has new idea to help victims over their ordeals

### The Arts

#### 37 Going back to nature, kids

Bond's on a mission to help children get off their hi-tech habits

### Food

#### 43 What's on our 2014 menus?

Greg Miles gets the hot word on what could be gracing your plates

PAGE  
70»



### New for You

#### 45 Get up and go in 2014

Our guide to help you kick-start the new year

### Sport

#### 70 Only way up for this skier

Disabled athlete aims for Paralympic place

### Plus

Seven days ..... Pages 5-7

Competition ..... Page 30

Business ..... Page 53

Feedback ..... Page 56

Images of Kent... Page 57

Driving ..... Page 59

Appointments.... Page 62

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## Work begins to patch up damage in wake of storms

By Joe Bill

Joe.bill@archant.co.uk

WORK to repair damage caused by the recent storms and floods has begun, with council chiefs admitting the wet weather has caused yet more potholes.

Highways are one of the main priorities, with crews in Kent promising to deal with any damage within 28 days.

But with some asphalt pavement and block-paving still submerged, road crews have to wait until the water has drained away and water-table levels have subsided before work can take place.

The county council says it will focus on repairs on a priority basis and is assuring the public that they will be undertaken "as soon as practical".

KCC's cabinet member for transport and environment, David Brazier, said: "We are aware that many people suffered as a result of the severe weather.

"Our roads and infrastructure received a battering, too.

"The extreme wet weather will cause potholes and we have geared up to tackle this, making permanent, first-time fixes as the



**REPAIRS:** Extreme wet weather has caused more damage to Kent's roads, with crews out fixing potholes

first-choice repair process.

"On occasion we will make a temporary repair until a permanent one can be programmed in. We are committed to repairing these within our service standard of 28 days.

"Our approach to maintenance, though, has meant at the close of the year we reduced the average time to fix a pothole down to just 14 days.

"Our drainage systems and footpaths have been damaged

where trees have been torn out by their roots. This work is also being programmed in for repair.

"We face a considerable increase in work following the harsh storms and we would ask residents to bear with us while we fix the damage."

Meanwhile, insurance companies are beginning to assess the damage caused to properties in hard-hit areas such as Yalding and Tonbridge.

Malcolm Tarling, from the Association of British Insurers,

said insurance companies were out inspecting properties but, due to flood-damaged properties taking weeks and sometimes months to fully dry out, the extent and costs of repairs were currently not clear.

He said: "While of course this has been a significant event and traumatic for those affected, insurers expect and plan for floods of this nature to occur during the year."

Flood warnings remained in place earlier this week.

## Disappointment after vote to limit high-stakes gambling is defeated

HOPES to see restrictions placed on fixed-odds betting terminals – known as the "crack cocaine" of gambling – have been dashed by a vote in Parliament.

Medway's Labour Group has been campaigning to limit the amount of money that can be spent on them and to give local authorities more powers to control the problem.

People are able to wager £100 every 20 seconds on the terminals, which feature games like blackjack and roulette.

But following a debate in the House of Commons this week, Labour's call for local councils to be given powers to restrict the number of machines allowed in each shop, as well as the amount of money spent on them, was defeated by 314 votes to 232.

The leader of Medway Labour Group, Vince Maple, said it was a disappointing outcome.

"It was an opportunity to empower councils like Medway to take on the crack cocaine of gambling," he said. "I have seen first-hand the impacts of

these machines, so I would want the Government to be doing more."

Maidstone MP and culture minister Helen Grant said the growth of the machines was concerning and that she wasn't ruling out putting restrictions in place.

But she stressed the Government was waiting for the findings of a study into the use of the machines before deciding what action to take.

The Association of British Bookmakers said that, while it accepted concerns about fixed-odds betting terminals, there was no evidence to support claims of widespread problems.

Labour's parliamentary hopeful for Rochester and Strood, Naushabah Khan, expressed her disappointment: "Previously, the Government voted against Labour's motion to cut the maximum stake of these machines from £100 to £2.

"Now, they have voted against giving councils the ability to curb them. This clearly shows that the Tories don't care."

## Jogger 'critical' as police urge van-driver to come forward

A JOGGER hit by a car in Ashford remains in a critical condition in hospital as police appeal for the owner of a van to come forward as a possible witness.

The 45-year-old man had been jogging in Simone Weil Avenue when he was hit by a Ford Kuga on Saturday, January 4, at 1.45pm.

Police are appealing for witnesses to come forward.

PC David Jeeves said: "We

would particularly like to speak to the driver of a light van who went through the traffic lights prior to the collision.

"It came from the roundabout heading in the direction of Kennington. Several witnesses have already mentioned this van and the driver may be able to provide us with some valuable information."

Call 01622 798538, ref 04-690.

## Lengthy jail term for dealer spotted by bar's door staff

A MAN caught with 11 wraps of party drug MDMA in a Maidstone bar has been jailed.

Simon Cursons, 31, of Gordon Road, Margate, was seen with drugs and exchanging money with another person by door staff at The Source Bar in Roseyard in Maidstone on March 29 last year.

He was detained until officers arrived and wraps of MDMA – ecstasy powder – with a street

value of between £240 and £480 and £100 in cash were seized.

He was charged with possession with intent to supply a Class A drug and jailed for three years and nine months.

Detective Constable Martin Barrow said: "Drugs ruin lives, not just the lives of those that take them but their families and friends, too, who have to deal with the consequences."



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## Woman sexually assaulted after night out in club

DETECTIVES are hunting a sex attacker who seriously assaulted a woman close to a Sheerness nightclub.

The woman, who is in her 20s, reported being sexually assaulted on the beachfront near Bridge Road.

She had spent the evening at Tantra nightclub before she was attacked at some point between 2am and 3am on December 15.

Police have now released a description of the attacker.

He is described as white, of medium to stocky build with broad shoulders, in his mid-20s, about 5ft 9in tall with an oval-shaped face, dark spiky hair with a fringe and noticeable sideburns.

He was wearing dark skinny jeans, a dark long-sleeved cardigan with a light-coloured top underneath and white trainers with laces.

Call police on 01622 654864 if you have information.



**ATTRACTION:** The popular railway

## Victim of brutal beating may have known attacker and let him into his home

By Marijke Cox

marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

A PENSIONER who was brutally beaten in his home may have known his attacker, it has emerged.

Kent Police said there was no forced entry into the Rutland Avenue flat in Cliftonville where Ken Seymour was savagely beaten on December 14 and that the victim may have "invited in" his attacker.

The 76-year-old suffered fractures to his skull and back and remains in a London hospital. He was found after a neighbour heard his cries for help and raised the alarm.

The severity of his injuries means that detectives have not yet been able to speak to him and establish a motive for the attack.

Before it happened, Mr Seymour had visited the Odd Fellows Club and The Ruby Lounge in Margate prior to catching a bus from Cecil Square at 3.30pm to the stop outside Tesco in Northdown Road, Cliftonville.

During this bus journey, he was



**APPEAL:** Pensioner Ken Seymour

seen on CCTV talking to a young man who got off at the same stop as him and they headed in the direction of his Rutland Avenue home together.

Detective Inspector Richard Vick-

ery, of the Kent and Essex Serious Crime Directorate, said: "This young man seen leaving the bus with Mr Seymour may well be the last person to have seen him before this violent attack and we're very keen to speak to this man and would urge him or anyone who knows him to contact us immediately.

"I would like to reassure people that this sort of attack is very rare indeed.

"We've not been able to speak to Mr Seymour due to the extent of his injuries and as such we have not been able to establish a motive for the attack.

"But what we do know is that entry was not forced to his home, so I have to assume that whoever is responsible for this attack either knew Mr Seymour or was invited in."

Anyone with information about the attack is urged to phone DI Vickery's team on 01303 289600. Alternatively, call Kent Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111. See the CCTV footage at [www.kentnews.co.uk](http://www.kentnews.co.uk) and search 'Cliftonville'

## All-girl choir making history at cathedral

A GROUP of 16 girls is making history at Canterbury Cathedral as the first female choir in almost 1,000 years of male-only choristers.

The new choir is made up of girls aged 12 to 16 who were selected following an audition process that attracted some 40 girls from local secondary schools.

They have met for rehearsals and will perform for the first time in public on Saturday, January 25.

They will be directed by the cathedral's assistant organist David Newsholme.

"It is always good to create new ways of making music and this will be an exciting new chapter in the cathedral's story," he said.

"This is a very exciting time for the cathedral and for these 16 very talented young ladies."

The Dean of Canterbury, the Very Revd Dr Robert Willis, said: "A girls' choir will provide a further dimension to the cathedral's worship and be an exciting addition to the cathedral's long history of musical achievement."

## Beach Boys legend to headline at Hop Farm

THE new promoters of the Hop Farm Music Festival have announced Beach Boys legend Brian Wilson as their first headliner.

The festival, which has been taken over by Nottingham-based firm UK Events, released the news via Facebook, saying it will continue to leak the list of acts in the run-up to March.

Wilson is famous for being the chief songwriter for iconic 60s group The Beach Boys.

Director of UK Events Neil Butkeraitis, who organises the Flashback Festival in Nottinghamshire, spoke to KoS Media last year to confirm the Paddock Wood festival would come back with new owners, promoters and direction.

It was originally run by events mogul Vince Power, regularly pulling in crowds of up to 50,000 after its creation in 2008, with headline acts including Prince and Bob Dylan. But it hit financial difficulties and a planned come-back flopped.

Tickets are available by calling 0845 075 6101; or visit <http://www.thehopfarmmusicfestival.com>.

## Benefit cheats caught falsely claiming £48K

A PAIR of benefit fraudsters from Medway who falsely claimed a total of more than £48,000 have been caught by authorities.

Carol Ann Marwaha, 34, of Speedwell Close, Gillingham, falsely claimed more than £36,000 in housing and council tax benefit and income support.

Marwaha was slapped with an 18-week suspended sentence and ordered to do 200 hours' unpaid work.

The other fraudster, Glen Campbell, 37, of Station Road, Strood, falsely claimed more than £12,500 in benefits. He was ordered to carry out 150 hours' unpaid work and pay costs of £700.

Medway Council said it would seek to recover the overpaid benefits.

Deputy leader Alan Jarrett said: "We operate a zero-tolerance policy to people who steal from hard-working taxpayers.

"Cases like these send out a strong message to all benefits claimants."



# agenda

What will make next week's headlines...

## Tribute to murdered teen at charity event

FRIENDS of Claire Tiltman will next Saturday meet for a charity event aimed at remembering the murdered schoolgirl.

It is being held 21 years to the day since she was brutally killed in an alleyway in Greenhithe, aged 16. The murder remains unsolved.

The Claire Tiltman Charity Tribute evening, to be held at

Dartford Football Club, has been organised by the Justice for Claire campaign.

There will be live music, with money going to EllenorLions Hospice, where Claire's mother Linda was cared for before she died in 2008, and The Fire Fighters Charity. Claire had aspired to be a fire-fighter.



Claire's best friend and organiser Lisa Gribbin said: "We hope this event will be the start of a fund-raising legacy so that the name Tiltman can be remembered positively and for helping others."

## Welfare reforms report back under the spotlight

A REVISED report looking into the impacts of the welfare reforms on people in Kent is due to be discussed on Friday, a month after it was controversially pulled by county council leader Paul Carter.

Many eyes will be on the document, which has been reviewed and updated following its withdrawal from the policy

and resources cabinet committee in December.

The previous paper linked a rise in debt and homelessness with the Coalition's reforms.

Cllr Carter was accused of pulling the report so he wasn't seen to be disagreeing with the Government's benefit changes.

But he stressed it was because he had not seen the paper.

## ...also

### Primary deadline arrives

PARENTS of children due to start primary school in September 2014 will be rushing to get in applications for a place as the final deadline approaches.

Families must make sure they get applications in by midnight on Wednesday. See [www.kent.gov.uk/ola](http://www.kent.gov.uk/ola) for information.

### Talks over future budget

MEDWAY Council chiefs will on Tuesday examine further potential cuts to funding in a meeting about the provisional local-government settlement for 2014-2016.

Headline figures already suggest cuts to budgets as central government slashes council funding.

### Stargazing Live returns

EYES will be on the skies next Saturday as a Kent astronomical club hosts a space-spectacular event as part of the BBC's Stargazing Live season.

Held at the Canterbury Academy, the Mid-Kent Astronomical Society will be educating visitors on all things astronomy.

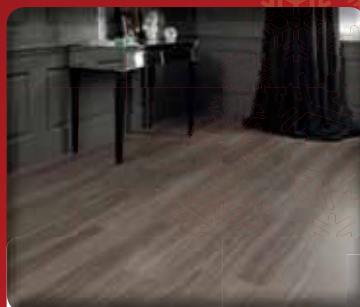
### Foster-carers needed

A RECRUITMENT drive for foster-carers begins in earnest next week with the first of a series of meetings aimed at finding families to take on vulnerable children.

The first event is being held on Wednesday at 7pm at Dartford Grammar School for Girls.

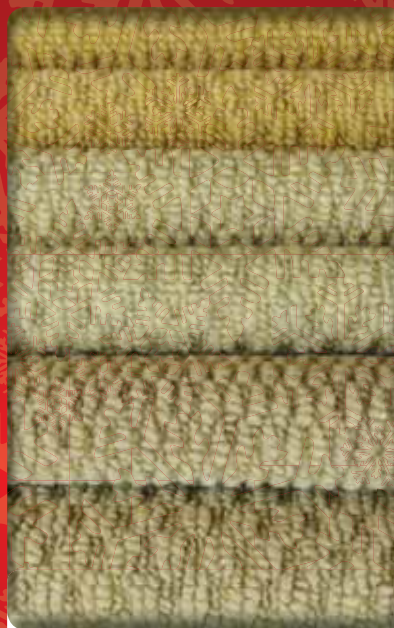


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## Profile

**I**T HAS undoubtedly been one of the toughest periods in Kent Police's history.

Faced with massive Government cuts to the policing budget – amounting to some £50 million since 2011, and another £20m in the coming years – hundreds of officer and staff posts have been lost.

Combine that with a hammering in the Press over crime-recording figures and, nationally, a dwindling affection towards the police in the wake of the Hillsborough inquiry and Plebgate, it's little wonder morale at the county's force is "not great".

But new Chief Constable Alan Pughsley, who this week started his job as Kent Police's most senior officer, replacing retiring Ian Learmonth, is determined to put policing back in the community and, at the same time, show people the "magnificent" work of his officers.

He admits he has a big challenge ahead due to the budget cuts but clearly sees it as a way of doing things differently and, more importantly, in a better way.

Speaking frankly, the 48-year-old admits the feeling within the force is "good but not great", but he remains resolute this will change.

So, who is the man tasked with leading one of the largest forces in the country?

Sitting in his office at Kent Police's Maidstone HQ, Mr Pughsley admits he is still pinching himself at having been appointed.

Joining the force 30 years ago as an enthusiastic rookie, chomping at the bit for a slice of the crime-fighting action, he forged a successful career at Scotland Yard tackling serious and organised crime before joining the county's force in 2009 as assistant chief constable for specialist operations.

He was promoted in 2011 as deputy to Ian Learmonth, who in October announced he would be retiring.

But for Mr Pughsley, joining the police service, it seems, was never just a bid to move through the ranks and one day get that top post; his sole motive was to catch the bad guys – the bullies, as he refers to them.

"There are other reasons people join the job, but crime-fighting is why I did. I have to pinch myself sitting here as the chief constable," he said.

"I joined the police service to tackle serious crime. I hate bullies and in my experience most criminals, particularly at the serious end, are nothing more than bullies.

"So I joined the job to reduce crime, to make people feel safer in their communities and put the bullies in jail where they deserve to be.

"As a serious-crime detective, I enjoyed nothing better than catching a really sophisticated criminal and watching them go to jail for a long time."

Mr Pughsley has spent the majority of his career catching criminals involved in serious and organised crime.

"My first 25 years were pretty much all up in London with the Metropolitan Police," he said.

"I was a career detective at Scotland Yard, dealing with kidnap, contract killings, murder, rape, robbery, that sort of work.

"It was very specialist. I complemented that with five years on the anti-corruption unit, so I have, as you



Pictures: ADY KERRY

# New police chief wants a force for the 21st century

Catching criminals has been a way of life for Alan Pughsley during the past 30 years, but now as Kent Police's latest chief constable he is tasked with running a force under pressure from budget cuts and public perception. But, as **Marijke Cox** learnt, he has a firm vision of how he can change things.

**“As a serious crime detective, I enjoyed nothing better than catching a really sophisticated criminal and watching them go to jail for a long time”**

**Alan Pughsley**, on his time in the Met working at Scotland Yard

can imagine, a very strong stance around integrity and what's right and what's wrong."

He was to later move into local policing, becoming the borough commander for Lewisham, which he describes as a "wonderful" period in his career.

"To work with local communities, with partners, it was a very diverse borough, a huge difference to many places that I'd policed before, but it was a great couple of years."

A promotion in Kent beckoned, however, and in 2009 he was appointed assistant chief constable for specialist operations at the county's force.

Tackling serious crime, though, ran in his blood.

**E**ight months after joining, he set up the celebrated Kent and Essex Serious Crime Directorate.

It was an unusual move, joining up with a force deemed out of the same geographical policing region.

But it became a huge success, becoming one of the biggest units of its kind outside London.

"It's one of the main reasons some of the London and European serious crime is not having the ability to get a foothold in Kent," he said.

It was also a likely reason that he was promoted to deputy chief constable in 2011.

And Mr Pughsley was more than happy, he said, to widen his remit and take on the responsibility, including designing a new policing model in the wake of big Government cuts, alongside Mr Learmonth.

"I was in charge from an operational point of view, on behalf of the chief, of everything taking place in Kent," he said.

"So, rather than just serious and organised, the local policing departments became mine, all the central operations and partnership working.

"It was a fantastic opportunity for three years to be the deputy and it put me in good stead with a really good grounding to be the chief.

"I worked closely with Ian Learmonth. He was a great officer and if I can do half of what he achieved then that will be really good."

His recent appointment as chief constable followed a gruelling two-day interview process in December in which he was grilled by a seven-strong panel, including Police and Crime Commissioner Ann Barnes.

Mrs Barnes described him as an exceptional officer.

But can communities have faith he will deliver the first-class service he promises?

"I'd like to think I'm very experienced operationally. I've got a good breadth and depth across the police and I absolutely understand Kent and

what it's all about," he said. "I think communities want to know that the person who's running the force and trying to deliver quality services is somebody who understands them, somebody they can connect with, someone with a passion about Kent – my kids went to school here, my boy plays rugby for Kent – so I am a Kent man delivering policing services in the county I love."

And what about staff and officers – what do they think?

Speaking to them when his back is turned, not one of them has a bad word to say.

Approachable, determined and a brilliant officer, they insist.

It's difficult to challenge.

**O**n meeting the new 'top cop', he is friendly, down-to-earth and clearly passionate about delivering his priorities for the people of this county.

Of these priorities, visible community policing takes centre stage.

It forms the main part of the new policing model that was introduced to tackle the ongoing austerity.

Already scaled back by some 500 officer posts and more than 700 staff, there seems to be no end of cuts at the force, with a further 100 officer roles due to be slashed.

It seems strange, therefore, that just this week a recruitment drive for police constables was announced by the chief himself.

He explained: "None of those 500 officers have been forced to leave. There is one piece of legislation that says if you have 30 years' service I can force you to leave the organisation, but I'm not doing that."

"We're losing staff through natural progression, so we've never had to force people to go."

"Over the next two to three years that will continue to happen."

"If I don't recruit, two things happen. One, I get a stagnated, stale workforce in about 15 years' time, so I've got to think ahead for our communities in the longer term."

"And two, if I don't recruit now and people leave through natural progression I actually go under the numbers we need and I cannot run a police force when I'm under-strength."

"So it's a continual cycle. I'm bringing them in – it takes me six months to train them, so I don't get them out on the street for six months."

"Even if we didn't need to lose so many officers, I'd still be desperately trying to recruit to keep the health of the service going well."

"I think it's right we keep new blood coming in, fresh ideas, otherwise you end up with a police force with people like me – 30 years' service and no youngsters!"

Mr Pughsley is determined to maintain a first-class service despite budget restraints and has a plan in place.

"We've got a really big challenge with sustaining or increasing visible community policing when we're losing money," he said.

"I'm looking at just how we take out the next £20m of policing cuts over the next two years. This is the hardest bit, taking out money when you haven't got an awful lot left."

"The model Ian [Learmonth] created, that I helped him with, will stay, but within the model we'll be doing things differently."

Broken down into three main parts, he explained his plan.



**FACING UP:** Kent Police Chief Constable Alan Pughsley is under no illusions about the task ahead

The biggest part, he said, is the 999 response.

"At the moment it's centrally run, so officers are not locally deployed, they're not locally owned."

"What I've decided to do is put that response back into neighbourhood policing."

"We have three local policing areas – north, east and west – and we're going to put that response back so they understand the local problems, they understand the communities, and it gives the local policing commanders more resilience and flexibility to use their resources to solve local problems."

But this in itself causes problems in the form of bigger workloads and pressures on officers in an organisation with a fast-reducing workforce.

In a bid to reduce this demand, Mr Pughsley is changing the age-old policy of sending an officer out to every victim of crime.

It's a risk. Public perception could be the force is turning its back on people when they are most in need. But the chief is steadfast in his reasoning.

"This is one force where we still

attend every victim of crime in person," he said.

"What we've found is there are quite a lot of victims of a lower level of crime who say they are satisfied with the level of service they've had over the telephone and don't need to see a police officer. But we say they must because our policy says they must."

"So we send officers to victims who don't really need to see us."

"We're going to stop doing that for the very low-level crimes and deal with it over the telephone."

Doing this, he says, will reduce demand on over-stretched officers by 25-40 per cent.

It's likely that some will be unhappy with this change, but Mr Pughsley says, in no uncertain terms, that he cannot promise a face-to-face meeting with everyone.

"If it's something like residential burglary – I've been burgled twice, it is so impactful on your family life – I will always send a police officer to do something like that."

"If there is a real desire and need to send that officer, then of course we will. But if it's purely and simply because 'I want one', I'm afraid I can't do that."

"There may be the odd time a member of the public says they really want a police officer to come and investigate a crime."

"If it's low level and there are no other lines of enquiry, and it's not a repeat offence and it doesn't look like it's a series, those will be the times I won't send an officer and I'm sorry about that, but that victim will get the same-quality service down the telephone they would get face-to-face."

"I'll use a phrase from my predecessor. He used to talk about managing

expectations, and the expectations from our communities don't have to drop at all about getting a quality, first-class service from Kent Police."

"But will it be delivered in a different way? On occasions, yes."

He said that anyone viewed as a vulnerable or repeat victim would always see an officer.

Another part of his policing plan is to see the force embracing new technology to allow officers to stay out on the streets for longer, rather than having to return to the station to fill in paperwork.

"I expect my officers in the near future to have something like an iPad with them that does everything they can do in the police station," he said.

"We must be able to keep them on the street longer so they don't need to keep coming back. They can be visible in the community and doing their job with better use of technology."

**T**echnology, he says, is also another key way of reducing demand on officers.

"We have officers who go to a victim or a crime scene and then to complete everything they have to drive back to the police station, do some paperwork and then go back to the scene."

"I don't think we can afford to do that. Our younger officers particularly are fantastic with technology – they are crying out for more."

The final one of his three main changes is likely to be the most welcome – returning to a Dixon of Dock Green-style policing.

Mr Pughsley believes that in the last model the force lost some of its traditional neighbourhood policing.

"I'm trying very hard to find a small number of officers, maybe one sergeant and about four officers, for each of our 13 districts to become that traditional neighbourhood policing again," he said.

"They don't have to respond to the 999 calls, they don't have to deal with prisoners overnight who might be in cells waiting for them. They purely and simply deal with the local problems within the local community."

"We're already very good, but we can become better and more locally embedded than we are."

"I want an open, honest, transparent force to work with and help communities in Kent, to reassure them."

The new team would work alongside Police and Community Support Officers (PCSOs), who currently provide neighbourhood support, albeit without policing powers.

PCSOs have always, since their advent in 2002, courted controversy, with critics continually questioning why money is not better spent on recruiting 'real' officers.

They have been deemed 'plastic police' with the same powers as your average citizen, meaning they are unable to make arrests.

However, Mr Pughsley insists that PCSOs do a "magnificent" job and are fundamental to policing in Kent.

"Under my tenure they will always be here. There is no way I would ever get rid of the role of PCSOs," he said.

"They do a different job to police officers and that is because they always are – and always will be – the visible presence in the community, whatever the demand."

"Police officers will arrest people and take them into custody and therefore have to spend time in the

**“ We send officers to victims who don't really need to see us. We're going to stop that for the very low-level crimes and deal with it over the telephone ”**

**Alan Pughsley**, on his plans to deal with force's 999 response





police station. PCSOs don't have those powers and I won't give it to them because if I do they'll end up spending time in the police stations as well."

He stressed, though, that he was looking at reviewing their powers.

"There are a couple of things I can give them so they can do a more engaging and fulfilling job because they tell me there's more they can do,

"But these powers will make sure they stay on the streets and stay in that community.

"So I will look at whether PCSOs have powers to take statements from victims and witnesses. I think that's a good idea.

"There's a detention power that some PCSOs have in different parts of the country where they can detain people on the streets for up to 30 minutes waiting for police officers to turn up, so I will look at that."

The Special Constabulary has also become an integral part of the force, he said.

Giving up their time voluntarily, specials are fully-trained officers with full police powers.

"I have the upmost respect for any person who comes and does the same job as me but does it on a voluntary basis," said Mr Pughsley.

"We have about 320 specials currently, and I think at the end of this calendar year we got something like 84,000 hours from them.

"Their skill sets are brilliant.

"We've got people who are great in journalism, great around media, great around finance, so we need to tap into those skills and deploy them in a better way within the police force.

"We're looking to increase the numbers and change their profile a bit as well because many of our

**“My promise to my officers is to make sure they're well trained, given the absolute best equipment to do their job and given top cover support by me”**

**Alan Pughsley**, on his vision for getting the best from Kent Police

Special Constabulary are younger people who join the specials, work there for a year or two and then join the regular police force. So there's quite a turnaround."

He is hoping to take on older specials who don't necessarily want to join the regular police to make the constabulary more sustainable.

Asked whether the force was relying more on volunteers to fill the gap left by huge spending cuts, Mr Pughsley admitted that with officer posts being slashed they were needed now more than ever.

"The use of specials will allow me to enhance visibility and reassure communities."

Policing remains a popular choice of career, despite the knocks and hardships in recent years.

Some 1,700 applications came in last year for 60 police constable posts and hundreds of people apply for PCSO roles.

"Even in these tough, difficult times, it's a brilliant career. There're not many jobs where you have the privilege of serving the public and trying to

make a difference every day," he said.

"People still desperately want to be part of a police force and that is no surprise in Kent because it's one of the best, if not the best in my view, in the land."

But there's no denying the force has suffered a tough few years.

**M**oney aside, incidents such as Plebgate, phone-hacking and the Hillsborough inquiry saw the public turn on what was once a much-loved and respected profession.

Mr Pughsley admits it has had an impact on officers.

"I think the force feels it's being attacked unfairly on occasion – look at Plebgate, which was nothing to do with my officers.

"Without going into any detail, what was said or not said by certain officers undermined the great work our officers do every day of the week.

"I remember watching the television and wanting to throw something at it – it really annoyed me.

"Then you've got Windsor and Hutton [reviews into pay, pension and working conditions] and CSR2 [the latest spending review] and a reduction in our budget.

"I can do nothing about this and the officers and staff know that, but separately they've got their terms and conditions and their pensions being looked at, so when you've got all of that in the mix, it's very easy for them to be a bit despondent.

"But it's outside influences that are affecting morale, not relationships with local communities."

The force also came under fire in June last year when PCC Ann Barnes commissioned a report by Her Majes-

ty's Inspectorate of Constabulary into crime-recording and found Kent Police was inaccurately recording one in every 10 crimes.

"It was a difficult time for us – we were getting nine out of 10 right and we wanted to get more than that right. It was 90 per cent, now it's 96-97 per cent.

"But the officers were doing their very best – they weren't out there fiddling figures, they were just doing their best and continue to do their best."

The chief constable insists the public in Kent seems to love its officers.

"Plebgate and such knocked confidence in policing and so I describe people as liking the police now, rather than loving them.

"But the public here in Kent – you genuinely hear they love my officers because they do a great job.

"So my promise to my officers is to make sure they're well skilled, well trained, well motivated, given the absolute best equipment to do their job and given top cover support by me so that if they make honest mistakes they don't have to worry.

"I want them to be in the best frame of mind because they are the ones delivering the service, not me.

"I'm sitting in here, they're delivering the service day in, day out."

So, for a man so passionate about fighting crime out on the streets, is he now destined for a life behind a desk?

"I will still get out there. I intend to be a really meaningful, visible chief constable with my staff in the communities – out at night, out in the cars – so I do intend to be out as much as I possibly can.

"The day that I lose touch with real policing is the day we lose touch at the top."

## 'Exceptional officer' has full backing of PCC

POLICE and Crime Commissioner Ann Barnes and the new chief constable will have a close working relationship, with Mrs Barnes having powers to hold the force to account.

Speaking about the new appointment, she said: "Alan won the job on merit, but it is good he knows the force, good to have that continuity – but with changes, too.

"People know him, they know he's straight-talking, he will be his own person, he will do things differently.

"I've known Alan for four years and we do share the same notion of policing in Kent

"He is very experienced and an exceptional chief officer."

Chief Constable Pughsley says they already have a good relationship.

"We respect each other immensely.

"I understand her role. I understand and welcome being held to account in an honest and transparent way and I think she understands completely it's my job to operate the way we run this force.

"We have an honest, true shared vision in making sure we deliver a first-class, quality service for the community in Kent, to deliver that in the most local way we possibly can, and to have victims and witnesses at the heart of everything we do.

"I've had that for 30 years in my career – it's not something I've made up as chief constable. I've operated by those principles for 30 years."

## Young should not fear force

CHIEF Constable Pughsley says one of his key messages is that nobody needs to be fearful or worried about Kent Police.

"I hear that young people are a bit worried about Kent Police and what the relationship is like, but I want a fantastic relationship with all communities: that's old, young, any diverse background.

"The only people who should be worried about us are the criminals and so they should stop committing crime and if they carry on then my resources and my force will relentlessly track them down and put them in the criminal justice system because it blights all of our lives.

"So, criminals beware – everybody else is absolutely 100 per cent looking forward to working with this organisation."

# 2014 has 'right ingredients' for a boom in house prices

There are optimistic signs the property market is about to feel the full benefit of an improving economy. **Joe Bill** spoke to industry experts to gauge what this may mean for would-be buyers and sellers.

**T**HE stranglehold that the economic downturn has had on the housing market during the past five years could be ending.

Property experts have pointed to a continuing rise in both house prices and sales transactions during the second half of 2013 as a key indicator for a positive future.

And there is much optimism for continued progress in the housing sector in Kent during 2014.

With the UK economy slowly showing signs of a recovery, news that the property market is in a healthier state is set to encourage would-be buyers and sellers to make the leap.

Kent County Council's cabinet member for economic development, Mark Dance, revealed there had been a 25 per cent increase year-on-year in the amount of property transactions going through in the county.

The county has seen more than 20,000 sales during the most recent four quarters – the highest 12-month period since the recession took hold in 2008.

He said: "Kent's housing market shows strong signs of good health, with transactions increasing and prices stable. It looks increasingly attractive to households financially excluded from the London housing market."

The South East topped the regional table in November 2013, with more than 300,000 applications to the Government's Land Registry Office.

Property giant Rightmove this month revealed that average house prices in the South East – not including London – during December were also up 5.7 per cent year-on-year, moving from £297,000 to £303,000.

This rise in prices has been predicted to continue into this year.

A spokesman for the Government Office for Budget Responsibility said: "The housing market has picked up more strongly than forecast in 2013.

"House prices [across the UK] increased by 3.8 per cent in the year to September, while the volume of property transactions was up 22.6 per cent.

"Our house-price inflation forecast has been revised up significantly, reflecting the momentum in house prices this year and supportive mortgage financing conditions.

"We expect house-price inflation to be 5.2 per cent in 2014 and 7.2 per cent in 2015."

Kent has seen a rise in house prices of 3.5 per cent from November 2012 to November 2013 and the county's property experts say this is down to

the increased demand from buyers.

John Woodhall, area sales director for Your Move, believes 2014 has "the right ingredients" for further house-price increases and a more fluid market-place.

He said: "There have been a lot of people who have made the decision not to buy but to rent over the past four or five years, and that has created pent-up demand.

"As soon as there is evidence of house prices increasing in 2014, the consequence is that people don't want to miss the boat.

"So they think it's time to get moving and so create more demand, but we need more supply [sellers].

"If there are lots of buyers with too few properties on the market... the house prices go up."

Rightmove director Miles Shipside believes more properties need to be put up for sale in Kent for the market to grow in tandem with rising house prices.

He said: "As the momentum of recovery increases, areas with the largest shortages of fresh property supply are likely to see more substantial price rises, with the South East among the regions where listings are most scarce."

It is widely believed that the demand for housing in Kent has also significantly increased due to people moving out of pricey London to cheaper commuter sites in the county, making use of improving infrastructure.

Your Move's Mr Woodhall said: "Kent is always going to be a hot-spot because of its accessibility to London.

"The worst-case scenario in Kent is that you can get to the capital in one hour and 30 minutes from as far as the east coast. There is a real property buzz across the area."

However, he does not think that the landmark introduction of the High

**“ There have been a lot of people who made the decision not to buy, but to rent over the past four or five years, and that has created pent-up demand ”**

**John Woodhall,**  
area sales manager at Your Move



**A RISING TIDE:** Figures from the last 12 months have shown year-on-year property increases in the South East

Speed 1 train service has had the effect of attracting buyers to the county first thought.

Mr Woodhall said: "I don't think it has had a significant impact, because it is expensive and goes into the wrong station for a lot of Kent commuters. It is definitely positive, but I don't think it's had a significant impact on house prices.

"It has been most effective in Medway, where it has cut times, and in the Northfleet area, but further into Kent I don't believe it has."

However, there are some areas of the county that have clearly benefited from transport links, with places like Thanet and Ashford becoming more desirable commuter locations.

These areas have witnessed a boost in property transactions and a regeneration of a competitive housing market, with some properties being snapped up just hours after being put up for sale.

Cllr Dance described Ashford as "bouncing back strongly" in recent months, while Mr Woodhall said that in these hot-spot areas houses could sell at high speed.

He said: "There is certainly compe-

titition now – if a property is correctly priced and in the right location, there will be more than one buyer interested in it.

"This can result in a bit of a bidding war and the price inflating above the asking price. Houses are selling quickly and we are expecting demand to increase further into this year."

**T**he county has also been seen by many as an ideal location for commuters because of its wide range of housing and array of prices.

For example, Cllr Dance said an average house price in Sevenoaks was £409,976 while at the lower end of the spectrum the average house price in Thanet was £181,531.

This has meant both incoming commuters and property investors keeping an eye on the county.

Medway has become a popular location for those looking to invest in a buy-to-let property.

Your Move's Mr Woodhall said: "Medway is following the trend of Kent also. We are seeing house prices improving and demand is good.

"The towns are always seen as a

more affordable location for people on the train line into London.

"And it's popular for people to buy to let there as well because there is a big student community to rent to.

"It's become a popular place for people to invest."

With banks becoming more wary of lending during the recession, the rental market has become increasingly strong.

But will this new increase in sales transactions mean that the lettings sector is set for its own downturn?

Mr Woodhall doesn't think so.

He said: "The rental market is something a lot of people are speculating over. Traditionally, these markets are countercyclical, so if the sales improve, the lettings calm down.

"But we haven't seen any evidence of this yet, however.

"There will still be lots of people who would love to be a homeowner, but they don't have the access to borrowing, so I still think there will be a very healthy demand for rental properties.

"I wouldn't think there will be a significant change on the rental market, but time will tell."





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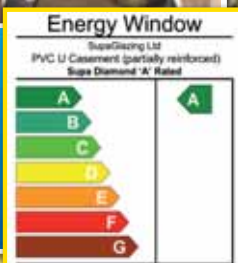
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14 Week ending January 12, 2014

The attraction of growing your own to save money

# Allotments prove to be real growth enterprise

**D**IGGING for victory was a necessity for Britons during the 1940s as the Second World War put the squeeze on almost non-existent fresh-food supplies.

People turned to growing their own and filling their back gardens, allotments and any space they could with produce to feed their families and even sell to others to raise some much-needed cash.

And now, in our world of plenty where the supermarkets have a constant supply of food, Brits are returning to their vegetable gardens and plots to generate their own produce.

The question is, with so much variety on the shelves, why are we going back to our green roots?

Kent's gardeners have a choice of some 200 allotment sites across the county and about 9,500 individual plots. But you'll have a wait on your hands to secure one – so sought after are these sites that some 3,500 people are on the waiting list.

It is believed that the trend, which has once again made allotments a must-have, has happened for three reasons: the economy, fear of pesticides and the media.

Medway Allotments Federation chairman Dave Wyatt, who has had his allotment in Chatham for 24 years, believes the boom in numbers is the biggest he has ever seen.

"It started around four years ago," he said.

"You saw plenty about allotments in the media and in magazines about how people should be growing their own food and worrying about the chemicals being used on their food.

"Obviously, if you've grown it yourself, then you know what's going on it.

"We had this horrible feeling that people would get all keen because of this but soon lose interest when they found it to be quite a lot of work. However, that hasn't been the case.

"We now have full allotments and, although we have had some people leave, that number is declining. So the waiting list is increasing."

Mr Wyatt also believes that any stereotypical view of elderly allotment-keepers taking up a hobby during retirement is well in the past, with people of many ages and professions making the most of their plot.

"It's definitely the most popular time in my memory," he said.

"And it has completely changed. It used to be an old man's game or hobby, but there are more and more families and couples coming to it.

"Some people do come to an allotment as a hobby. However, there is a genuine need for

some to grow their own on an allotment because it will save them money.

"They might not be able to work for whatever reason, but they're actually doing quite hard graft down on the garden and getting something as an end result."

Using the local allotment as a recession-busting tool is not something reserved for Kent – it is happening across the country.

Steve Clemence, South East regional representative for The National Allotment Society, agrees that part of the boom is born out of desperation to save money but is wary that not all newcomers last the pace.

He said: "The average man doesn't have the income to spend out today, and that's if he has a job. So they perceive that by having an allotment it will help combat it.

"In reality, it takes a lot of time, and if you read the books it says it should take about 14 hours a week to keep up with all the work needed, but in reality at the height of summer it can need double that to stay on top of it.

"People don't realise that until they are confronted with a load of weeds.

"It's not as easy and rosy as the likes of Alan Titchmarsh like to portray.

"A good third will fall by the wayside in the first year when they realise the work involved."

However, Mr Clemence, who has held an allotment for almost 40 years, does believe the popularity will continue for the foreseeable future as people steer clear of intensive farming and look to local producers.

"I think because of all the pesticides used by farmers, and also the fact vegetables that come from abroad obviously take a few days to get here, if you can grow your own it's that much fresher.

**“ In reality, it takes a lot of time, and if you read the books it says it should take about 14 hours a week to keep up with the work needed – in reality at the height of summer it can be double that ”**

**Steve Clemence**, of The National Allotment Society, on the reality of looking after a plot

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has seen a dramatic rise in the number of people wanting their own little plot of land, as **Joe Bill** reports

Pictures: ADY KERRY



"The big rise is with ladies and women with children. And the men who do it now are a lot younger than the old cloth-capped geezer of the past.

"This is undoubtedly the most popular time I have seen."

The growing problem new horticultural fans are faced with is the lack of room for them to get started, with already-brimming waiting lists and very few new allotments being created.

There are, however, some ideas being aired about how to find space for the new generation of allotment-lovers.

Mr Clemence said: "Some areas are able to accommodate people quickly, but some people can stay on the waiting list for three or four years and beyond.

"Part of the waiting-list problem we now have is to do with the last Labour government.

"John Prescott, in the position he was in, was selling off grounds. The likes of schools suffered because their playing fields were becoming very lucrative to build houses on.

"So we now have councils finding it difficult to find a green site for new allotments.

"When I have gone to shows, like the Taste of Autumn event in Wisley, I am asked frequently by people where to go and how to get a plot. But if you were to get a group of people together and approach a farmer, it could happen.

"Some farmers are not cultivating all of their arable ground and so not getting an income from that land. It may well be that he is prepared to let out a piece of ground to turn over to allotments and keep the boom going."

It costs roughly £40 per year to lease an average allotment of 250 square metres in Kent.

"Less than a pound a week, which, for any hobby, is peanuts," said Dave Wyett.

"It's really good exercise. There are millions

**PAGE 16 »**



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and millions of pounds thrown at tackling health problems in the UK, but having an allotment could stop you getting in that position to start with. If the Government put more money into allotment schemes, it would pay back in long-term health.

"You're getting outside, getting decent exercise and growing something healthy to eat.

"You might put money in gyms and all that, but you get just as much exercise from this – as well as the food at the end of it."

Tony Jesse is one such resident to have taken up an allotment for the first time this year, having bagged a spot at Canterbury's Whitehall Road plots.

"The price of things nowadays has gone sky-high. I've just retired, so to stretch my pension a little bit I thought I'd grow my own food," he said.

"That was the idea of it – a money-saving option – plus growing your own food is quite nice to be honest. It tastes a lot different."

But Mr Jesse says the allotment can be a challenge and advises people only to get involved if they are serious about taking care of the land.

"I used to have a garden when I was younger, which was a third of an acre, but being a lorry-driver I was working away a lot and by the time you got home at night you didn't have enough time to do anything.

"That's the thing with the allotment: you do need time to do things."

Mr Jesse, who moved to Canterbury from London, managed to get a spot at the allotments surprisingly quickly



**IT'S SLOW-GOING:** Due to the popularity of wanting an allotment, waiting lists for plots in certain areas can stretch into several years rather than months

despite only putting in his application to the council in the summer.

"I was amazed because I didn't have to wait too long, but you do hear of waiting lists. I think it depends on the area. For example, one I considered at Whitstable had a waiting list of three years."

Mr Jesse believes there are many health and social benefits to taking up an allotment. He believes their popularity should lead to local councils making more space available for fans of growing.

He said: "There are some really nice people here and they have been so helpful.

"I was formerly a Londoner and since coming down here everybody has been helping me and telling me when to plant and what to plant where. It's a real community.

"There most definitely needs to be more space for allotments the way

things are now. From the obvious amount of people that want them, there should be many more created."

Although the take-up of allotments shows no signs of slowing, experts have differing opinions on why they remain popular.

Marcia MacLeod, founder and editor of Your Allotment magazine, believes the reason allotments are all the rage is because of the end result.

"They have been popular for a number of years but especially after the various incidents that have involved the sourcing of meat products that happened last year," she said.

"People want to know where their food comes from and what has been sprayed on it.

"If you grow it yourself, you know what you have used on it. There are also many people who have begun to question how fresh things are, whether they were frozen, and even com-

menting that some vegetables you find in the supermarket have no taste.

"There is also the advantage of being able to grow different fruits and vegetables that you can't get in the supermarket. Who wants to buy things that come in plastic?"

However, although she believes the positives to owning an allotment are many, she doesn't think much money can be saved through leasing one.

"Once you have spent out on the fees, equipment, seeds, netting and compost, you won't save much money on what you produce. But it does taste a lot nicer and healthier.

"I know a man who was diagnosed as a diabetic, but he didn't want to start taking loads of drugs to combat it. So he got hold of an allotment. It helped him lose a lot of weight and he got a lot of exercise. Also the better food he was eating as a result helped to keep his diabetes under control.

"So there are many benefits."

There is a range of initiatives in Kent to help the growing movement thrive, including the Deal With It scheme, where garden-owners who are unable to spend time managing their land can be paired with a 'grower' to help make the most of it.

Often elderly and disabled garden owners who can't manage their outside space will be paired with a green fan who may live in a flat or have nowhere to get their hands dirty.

One thing is for sure: the allotments movement continues to gather pace and whether people head back to basics to save cash or to increase their exercise, this is a very different style of digging for victory.

■ If you would like to get involved in the Deal With It scheme, visit the website at [www.dealwithit.org](http://www.dealwithit.org). For details of allotments, contact your local council.

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**Canterbury High School,**  
Knight Avenue, CT2 8QA  
Wednesday 6:30 - 8:00 pm **Aerobics**

**St Dunstons Church Hall,**  
80 London Road, CT2 8LS  
Thursday 10:00 - 11:30 am **Aerobics**

## DEAL

**Great Mongeham Parish Hall,** 170  
Mongeham Rd, Great Mongeham, CT14 9LL  
Monday 10:00 - 11:30 am **Aerobics**

## DEAL

**Walmer Science College,**  
Salisbury Road, Walmer, CT14 7QJ  
Tuesday 6:00 - 7:30 pm **Aerobics**  
Tuesday 7:30 - 9:00 pm  
**Kardy-O-Fun® Interval**

**Walmer Parish Hall,**  
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Wednesday 10:00 - 11:30 am **Aerobics**

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Tuesday 7:30 - 9:00 pm **Aerobics**

**East Stour Primary School**  
Earlsworth Road, South  
Willesborough, Ashford, TN24 0DW  
Thursday 6:00 - 7:45 pm **Aerobics**

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IT'S all a long way from the magical children's world of Harry Potter, wizards, witches, ghosts, goblins and dragons, but actor Daniel Radcliffe's portrayal of Allen Ginsberg in the movie *Kill Your Darlings* has been described as a breakthrough career-defining performance.

The fact that the description comes from those charged with promoting Radcliffe's role in the movie perhaps speaks volumes about the need to put his Harry Potter persona, at the very least, to one side.

No one could doubt his effectiveness as the young lawyer Arthur Kipps in the genuinely scary horror film *The Woman In Black*, but the shadow of Harry Potter will always be there.

It's a fact of which Radcliffe is obviously aware, but if Harry Potter does

ouac by Jack Huston and William Burroughs by Ben Foster, but it is the relationship between Radcliffe's Ginsberg and Carr that is arguably central to the movie.

"I know it all sounds a bit grim," said Radcliffe, "but I don't want people to get that impression.

"Certainly, there's a killing and that's obviously a big part of the film, but a lot of the action bowls along in a jolly kind of way. There is a lot of fun in it."

He is, without question, one of the biggest names in British acting, but you could not accuse Daniel Radcliffe of not keeping his feet on the ground.

His involvement in an impressive number of charities suggests that his motives are far from simply satisfying the demands of good PR, as if any were necessary anyway.

And top of a very substantial pile is

# An older Radcliffe turns to racy set

**David Mairs** speaks to the Harry Potter star about his new Beat Generation movie and the time that Thanet weaved its own special magic on him

present any kind of burden – oh, that all actors could have the burden of such an extraordinarily successful series of films – then Radcliffe is very far from showing it.

"No actor – no good actor – will allow himself to be typecast," he told this newspaper. "Actors should always be looking to move on to different challenges and that's what I'm doing with this."

And some. *Kill Your Darlings* is labelled as a true-crime thriller, but it's more than that.

It tells how the prime movers in the literary counter-culture known as the Beat Generation met and developed their ideas and talents at New York's Columbia University in 1944.

Homosexuality, drugs, the embracing of Eastern religions and rejection of materialism are all writ large into the zeitgeist, but it's the killing of David Kammerer by Lucien Carr that takes the actions of the Beat Generation to another, wretched, level.

Carr is played by Dane DeHaan and fellow Generation movers Jack Ker-

ent's own Demelza Hospice Care for Children, at Bobbing, near Sittingbourne.

Such is his regard for the children's hospice that more than 10 years ago he gave the following message to his army of fans:

"In the past my fans have been truly generous in sending me fantastic presents especially for my birthday and at Christmas.

"I truly appreciate these and feel very fortunate to have such loyal fans.

"I would like to ask that instead of sending me a gift that they make a donation to Demelza House, a fantastic children's hospice outside London that I support, which does amazing work for terminally ill children and their families.

"The focus of the hospice is in their words about 'Adding life to days when days cannot be added to life'.

"Please visit the website [www.demelzahouse.org](http://www.demelzahouse.org) to find out more about this incredible place that I feel

very proud to support. Thank you for the kindness you have shown to me throughout 2003 and any help you can give to Demelza House will be truly appreciated by me and everyone who is involved with this special place."

And the admiration has clearly not waned.

"There are some really very special people there," he told this newspaper.

"I got to know about Demelza through my involvement with Kids Wish [Network]. It's an American organisation that gives hope and happy experiences to children who have suffered illness or face a very difficult future for a number of reasons."

**W**ithout wishing to be patronising, Radcliffe does come across as an all-round good guy with a cheery, down-to-earth, almost disarming, demeanour that would only benefit any charity or cause that he chose to support.

And that refusal to forget his roots extends to his further association with this county.

"I know Kent well," he said. "I have friends in Westgate [near Margate]. "We used to come down every other weekend to Ramsgate. Every other weekend you would find us at Joss Bay. I loved it there."

Joss Bay is in fact between Broadstairs and Kingsgate, but we can forgive Daniel Radcliffe a minor geographical inaccuracy. That's one of the benefits of being a good guy.

■ Kill Your Darlings was released in the UK last month. Check your local cinema for listings.



**GLASSES IN CLASSES:** Daniel Radcliffe's character Allen Ginsberg was part of a movement that began at university



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# Did cathedral miss a trick in turning down Potter's cash?

By Marijke Cox

marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

**K**ENT is no stranger to the big screen. Providing the backdrop to some of Hollywood's most successful blockbusters, it has become a firm favourite for film companies.

And with its combination of historic buildings and varied coastline it is no wonder.

Les Misérables, Sherlock Holmes and World War Z all featured scenes that had been shot in the county.

But in among the long list of big hitters there remains one that got away: Harry Potter.

The franchise, now thought to be worth billions, could have had its roots planted firmly in Kent.

Back in 2000, before anyone imagined what a runaway success the films would be, Warner Bros approached Canterbury Cathedral to ask that it be used as the location for Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry –

the school that Harry Potter and his chums attend in the JK Rowling books.

At the time, the cathedral said a "generous" offer had been made but it was turned down due to concerns at the stories' use of pagan imagery.

Christianity warns against engaging in pagan rituals and witchcraft.

Instead, Gloucester Cathedral stepped in to fill the role of Hogwarts.

But 13 years on and with the Harry Potter franchise still basking in its extraordinary success, we can but wonder what might have been had the Kent cathedral said yes.

Sitting proudly in the heart of the city, the cathedral is in the throes of a refurbishment set to cost some £30 million, perhaps more.

And there is no denying the money from Warner Bros would have helped restore the crumbling building.

Alex Perkins, a Lib Dem member on Canterbury City Council, said it could have preserved it for centuries to come but stressed the cathedral had not necessarily made the wrong decision.

"Personally, I can see both sides of the argument," he told KoS.

"On the one hand, the church is desperately trying to raise millions and millions of pounds to carry out the refurbishment.

"Of course, had it been used as Hogwarts it could have helped raise a lot of the money. But on the other side, you've got to balance the sanctity of the Mother Church. It was possible a lot of people would have been offended and would have felt that a holy place had been desecrated."

Cllr Perkins admitted that had the huge task of making the decision fallen to him, he might have agreed to the Warner Bros offer.

"But I absolutely understand the decision – and it wasn't the wrong decision," he added.

The Tory MP for Canterbury, Julian Brazier, backed the cathedral.

"Although I enjoy the Harry Potter films and my children all love the books, the cathedral was right that the dignity of such an important place of worship in the UK should be protected



**CASTING A SHADOW:**  
Film-makers wanted  
Canterbury Cathedral  
to become Hogwarts

and not commercialised in this way," he said.

A cathedral spokesman told this newspaper that at the time it was approached many Anglicans "disapproved strongly" because of the magic and witchcraft in the stories.

"Canterbury Cathedral is the Mother Church of the worldwide Anglican Communion, whose 80 million members feel a great affection for the cathedral," he said.

"Because of this, we have to be sensitive to the opinions of Anglicans from around the globe. In addition, having a film company on site in a building holding at least four services each day can be very disruptive.

"I know from talking to staff at other locations where filming did take place that it placed a great strain on the normal working of those cathedrals."

He stressed, however, that the cathedral was not opposed to the film industry in general.

"You may remember that part of Last Orders starring Tom Courtenay, Bob Hoskins and Ray Winstone was filmed in the cathedral at about the same time, and we thoroughly enjoyed the three days they were with us," he said.

There's no denying church leaders had the interests of their Anglican members at heart... but their decision did little to help the bricks and mortar.

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# Toast to a true English eccentric

**Joe Bill** reflects on the packed life of entrepreneur Martin Miller, who passed away on Christmas Eve

**L**ITTLE more than 30 years ago, an eccentric Martin Miller shot to fame for establishing the best-selling Miller's Antiques Price Guide.

It quickly became indispensable to bargain-hunters – from small-time car-boot-sale buyers to those looking for shrewd advice on the price of items going under the hammer.

But having heightened his status and increased his bank balance considerably, he decided to take on a new venture, which brought him to Kent.

It was Chilston Park, a property at Lenham, between Maidstone and Ashford, which he bought in 1985, that would set him on the path to a successful enterprise in country house hotels.

Mr Miller, who died on Christmas Eve aged 67, had developed an interest in restoring and developing period properties and bought the Grade I-listed building to use as a family home.

But with 40 rooms, he eventually agreed with his second wife Judith that it was better suited as a countryside hotel. Subsequently, Chilston Park Hotel opened in 1978.

As a new hotelier, he was on a steep learning curve, admitting later that he had forgotten to apply for a licence to serve alcohol in the hotel bar.

Once described as "the Richard Branson of the antiques world", he continued to run his publishing



**A LIFE WELL LIVED:** Martin Miller, above, bought Chilston Park and turned it into a hotel in 1978 before establishing several successful business ventures

business from the hotel, which also doubled as the perfect setting for many of his collectable antiques.

During the recession of the early 1990s he was forced to sell the 17th-century manor house at Lenham, but the businessman went on to open several more country house hotels based on the success he had enjoyed with the Kent property.

In 1999, Mr Miller showed his keen eye for business once more and embarked on a project he described as the toughest of his career, launching Martin Miller's Gin.

His favourite drink being a Martini – a cocktail made with gin and vermouth – he went in search of the finest ingredients to create a high-end

gin to use in his chosen tipple. Once again he found success and his gin is now stocked in leading supermarkets and sold in top-end restaurants.

A spokesman from Martin Miller's Gin said: "Martin was an inspiration and a genius. An iconoclast and a genuine English eccentric. These days much copied, but never equalled.

"Martin also proved inspirational to others in other fields. He was fearless in what he was prepared to take on.

"He was a throwback to times when originality and individuality were virtues. A true revolutionary in all of the many fields of life he became passionately involved in, none more so than his gin-making."

The son of an insurance salesman,

Mr Miller was born in 1946 in Worthing, West Sussex, and from a young age veered towards his built-in business sense rather than pursuing further education.

As a schoolboy, his early ventures are said to have included hamster-breeding and publishing a magazine for local teenagers.

He also started a mail-order dating guide called Success With The Fairer Sex, which instructed readers on points of etiquette.

After time at a Brighton art school, he was a freelance photographer for three years, working mainly in the weddings and baby business.

However, a random encounter with an antiques-dealer in 1969

sparked a love affair with the antiques world.

Unable to find a guide to antique prices, he decided to create his own – the Lyle Antiques Review, which eventually became the renowned Miller's Antiques Price Guide.

He sold it for £2 million in 1994.

Despite his business successes, the entrepreneur was never one to take life too seriously.

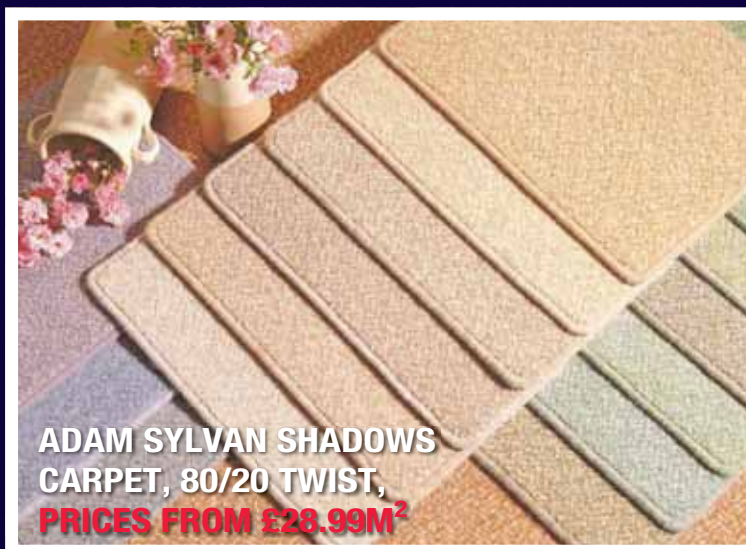
He once said: "Well, the first thing I learnt to draw at art school was a palm tree. Since then I have pretty much planned my businesses around spending as much time as I can lying under one."

A family man, he was married three times and leaves five children.

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# A one-stop shop for victims

A big believer in restorative justice, Kent's Police and Crime Commissioner **Ann Barnes** is planning to introduce a centre for people in the county who have suffered through the actions of criminals



**H**ELLO and very happy New Year to all KoS readers.

I do hope you managed to have a good break, although my heart goes out to everyone whose lives were so dreadfully disrupted in the storms and floods.

I hope the clear-up operation is going as well as these things can.

For me it was straight back to business, getting on with a busy programme for 2014, which includes putting victims first, visible community policing and cutting and preventing crime.

Putting victims first: this is so important to me. The criminal justice system is an alien place for law-abiding citizens because any crime is a violation yet it seems to focus on everyone other than them.

This has to change.

So I am introducing a one-stop shop in the shape of a victims' centre. We are still working on the details, but I hope to announce more news soon.

We shall make sure that more vic-

tims have access to restorative justice.

Kent Police has worked closely with relevant partners to pioneer a new process that puts victims in the driving seat, giving them a chance to meet and question their offender face-to-face.

It works and is powerful stuff.

I was pleased to hear that Damian

bedrock of the Kent Police model. Police Community Support Officers play a huge part, but so does new technology. We cannot promise a bobby on every village beat – although I know some parish councils are looking to find funding for a PCSO themselves –

I expect the chief constable to continue to use a range of measures to make sure Kent remains a force to be reckoned with.

The task of crime prevention also falls on my new youth commissioner, who will start to play a major role in educating young people, alongside the fantastic Safer Schools Partnership team, to stop them getting into the criminal-justice system in the first place. So there is much to do.

Please do continue to support our work by coming to my events.

The first takes place on Wednesday, January 22, with Meet The Commissioner And Chief Constable at Quarterhouse in Folkestone. If you would like to attend, please register at my website [www.kent-pcc.gov.uk](http://www.kent-pcc.gov.uk).

If you would like to get in touch with me, please contact me by the usual channels of email, website or @AnnBarnesKPCC, or by phoning 01622 677055.

*Best wishes, Ann*



Green, the minister for policing, criminal justice and victims, is introducing a new way to record crimes that are 'undetected' by adding 12 new categories.

While it is always disappointing when crimes cannot be solved or punished, there are often very good reasons for it.

It's about time this was acknowledged, so thank you Mr Green.

Visible community policing is the

but we are working hard to increase that police-officer presence through putting mobile contact points in hard-to-reach rural areas and offering live web chats. Find out more from [www.kent.police.uk](http://www.kent.police.uk)

We can also harness all the support for the police we have among ordinary people by continuing to support the eyes and ears of the force – Neighbourhood Watch – and by recruiting more Specials.

Cutting and preventing crime is, of course, central to our work.

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# The family pets that can turn into killers on a country walk

The emotional cost is high but the financial cost can also be hugely damaging when farmers' livestock are attacked by dogs. **Joe Bill** reports on a distressingly common problem.

**B**EING able to walk their dog in the countryside is one of life's greatest pleasures for many, but people are being warned to keep a close eye on their canine companions after a spate of horrific incidents in which dogs have attacked pregnant livestock.

Sheep-worrying – as it is referred to by police – is happening across the county depressingly frequently, with at least one attack reported to police every week.

The issue hit the headlines in December after a disturbing incident at a farm near Maidstone in which 11 pregnant ewes died as a result of a dog attack.

There were also more than 40 other sheep at risk of aborting their unborn lambs due to the stress.

Attacks of this kind are horrendous for rural communities to have to deal with, but with sheep costing upwards of £150 each, farmers are also left counting the financial cost of losing livestock and the substantial risk to this year's offspring.

South East chairman for the National Farmers' Union (NFU) Kevin Attwood has seen his livestock fall victim to attacks in the past and has even had to shoot a dog during an assault on sheep.

He said: "It's always a very difficult issue. On one side you have farmers with sheep in the field and at this time of year they are pregnant and vulnerable.

"On the other hand, when worrying occurs, it is usually somebody's pet and it can be the most innocuous animal you have ever met.

"But when it's running around in a field of sheep, it doesn't matter if it's a Jack Russell or an Alsatian, it can revert to its historic, genetic make-up and go after the sheep.

"There has been a spate of incidents in the last couple of months and it often seems to be this time of year, when the ewes are in lamb."

Most attacks are put down to

careless dog-walkers who let their animals off the lead, allowing them to escape into a field of sheep.

But Kent Police is urging the public to be more aware of the dangers of letting dogs get near livestock.

Rural partnership officer PC Michael Laidlow said: "There are roughly about six incidents a month of sheep-worrying across Kent.

"That hasn't gone up or down, but it is consistent, so it is a problem.

"We deal with every incident separately and take action to prosecute offenders or seek a local resolution if possible.

"We have had a couple of cases where people were poaching in fields or hare-coursing and that has really worried the sheep.

"Last year we had a particular problem in the Canterbury area, and our team had to be deployed.

"We were living in bushes and outdoors to catch these dogs and the people behind it.

"So whenever we do see an issue we get stuck in."

The police work closely with farmers and have set up an account on social-networking site Twitter to warn dog-walkers not to let their pets off leads in certain areas.

The financial implications of these attacks can hit farmers hard, with every sheep lost potentially meaning a lost lamb as well.

Mr Attwood, who owns Down

**“When a dog is running in a field, it doesn't matter if it's a Jack Russell or an Alsatian, it can revert to its genetic make-up and go after sheep”**

**Kevin Attwood**, farmer from the National Farmer's Union

Court Farm in Doddington, said: "Most farmers are insured – as long as it's not reoccurring in a particular field – for any animal that is killed or has to be put down through injury.

"However, with respect to economics, at this time of year it is the unknown loss of lambs that is unquantifiable and cannot be insured against."

There are also implications for the dogs and dog-owners when an incident occurs.

"It might be an innocuous family pet on your property, but when it is in the countryside and running free, it can be a very serious economic issue," said Mr Attwood.

"If the dog – dead or alive – is traced back to an owner, that insurance claim from the farmer might lead to the pursuit of compensation from the dog-owner.

"There can also be a court order issued to have the dog destroyed, which, when it is a family pet, can be horrible."

**M**r Attwood said that he had seen pet dogs revert back to their basic instincts and turn into pack hunters when together around livestock.

He said: "I have had to shoot dogs in sheep fields in the past.

"In one incident, two Alsatis were physically attacking sheep and we chased those off with a fence stake, but both turned and bared their teeth because their blood was up and they were in chase mode.

"So, although I wouldn't willingly do it a second time, I had to shoot one dog because it wouldn't leave the sheep alone.

"I wasn't going to confront it.

"That is a swift resolution to the problem, but it is very unpleasant and most of us have pet dogs and shooting one is not something any of us want to do."

The police process after an incident can also become complex for



**THREATENED:** There has been a spate of attacks on sheep across the county

all parties involved – sometimes resulting in farmers and neighbours warring over an escaped dog's actions.

Mr Attwood said: "The big difficulty for farmers is, if they don't actually see the incident, it is difficult to track down the dogs and the owners.

"Even once you have done that, proving it can be an issue.

"Resolution often ends in either the dogs being moved away from their home or being put down. The whole scenario is very difficult for all concerned."

The NFU regional chairman believes the only way to solve the issue is raising public awareness to the dangers, while Kent Police is continuing to warn dog-owners of the risk they take in letting their beloved pets off the lead around farms.

PC Laidlow said: "I would urge dog-owners to keep their pets under control around any livestock and to secure their gardens to help prevent animals from escaping.

"I would also advise owners that under the Dogs (Protection of Livestock) Act 1953, farmers are within their rights to injure or kill a dog that is chasing, worrying or attacking livestock to protect their livestock."

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# Sunken WWII bomber now on delicate road to recovery

**Chris Murphy** looks at the painstaking restoration of the last remaining Dornier 17 bomber, six months after it was raised from the Goodwin Sands

**I**T WAS one of the most dramatic images of the year as, after 70 years of lying in a watery grave in the English Channel, a German Second World War bomber was lifted into the air.

The Dornier 17, the last of its kind in existence, looked remarkably like it must have done when it crashed on to the Goodwin Sands during the Battle of Britain in 1940.

Afforded a degree of relative protection by the soft sands and shallow waters, it remained intact – a tantalising prospect for historians keen to set eyes on it.

But what has come of it since it emerged from the deep back on that sun-soaked June evening?

After being lifted out of the sea, it was transported, delicately, to the Royal Air Force Museum at Cosford, home to the team behind the recovery process.

Today, it sits in two hydration tunnels, where it will remain for the next few years.

Darren Priddy is deputy conservation centre manager at Cosford.

He said: "Any metal removed from a salt-water environment is subjected to an accelerated corrosion process if it's not treated quickly.

"As the Dornier lay at the bottom of the sea, the currents and tides have effectively been like rubbing sandpaper over the aircraft's surface for 73 years, but she's survived remarkably well.

"This is a truly unique project with lots of unknowns and we are still learning day by day.

"All the signs from the work we have carried out so far are very positive, but there is still a long way to go.

"The museum has recently acquired several thousand original Dornier 17 production drawings, which will aid the rebuild process.

"These invaluable drawings, supplied by the European Aeronautical Defence and Space company, will also assist us to identify parts and can be utilised for partial reconstruction to reinforce any fragile areas."

The bomber is being sprayed three times an hour with a citric solution that will help prevent corrosion.

Visitors can sometimes glimpse sections of the craft, however, when



**DAY IN THE SUN:** Currently at Cosford's Royal Air Force Museum, the Dornier 17 is slowly making progress, as the before-and-after pictures below show



smaller components are worked on each week. It will never fly again, but being the last-known version of the aircraft means it will be a star attraction once what is left is eventually put back together again.

Today, the dream is to have the aluminium remains rebuilt as far as possible without replacing anything that was either stripped by the results of the dogfight that downed it, or the effects of the sea. What is left will one day go on display at the RAF Museum at Hendon, London.

Quite when that will be remains unclear – but the best estimate suggests it could be five years away.

The dawning of 2014 marks the fourth year for the £600,000 preser-

vation project, which was helped by a grant of £345,000 from the National Heritage Memorial Fund.

The plane was not completely intact when recovered.

Missing parts included the starboard tailplane, port rudder, tail fairing cone and tailwheel assembly, flap assemblies, engine cowlings, forward nose glazing and bomb bay and undercarriage doors. Both the main undercarriage units were retracted and in place, however.

Other items gone include at least two of the original six 7.92mm MG 15 machine guns, which were apparently taken by 'sport' divers since 2008, when shifting sands gave up its 50ft-deep secret.

## GERMAN CREW'S FATEFUL JOURNEY

THE Dornier 17 was originally designed by Claude Dornier; it was a fast aircraft capable of evading fighter planes while being able to deliver bombs.

More than 2,000 were built over a 10-year period from 1934.

The Dornier 17 shot down over the English Channel and recovered last year met its fate on August 26, 1940, in one of the many air battles during the Battle of Britain.

It had been part of a seven-strong formation that had left its base at St Trond in Belgium on a mission to bomb airfields at Debden and Hornchurch in Essex.

Reports say the plane became

separated and easy prey for the RAF pilots of the Hornchurch-based Boulton-Paul Defiant fighter planes, which had their forward base at RAF Manston.

Of the four-man crew on the German bomber, two – wounded pilot Feldwebel Willi Effmert, 24, and bomb-aimer Unteroffizier Hermann Ritzel, 21 – became POWs in Canada.

Wireless-operator Unteroffizier Helmut Reinhardt, 27, and 21-year-old bomb-aimer Gefreiter Heinz Huhn were killed.

Their bodies were recovered and buried in The Netherlands and the Cannock Chase German cemetery in Britain, respectively.

## CHANNEL DELAY TO PROCEEDINGS

IT was only at the start of last summer that work to recover the bomber finally began.

Numerous attempts to raise it had been scuppered by the weather, and there were fears that time, and money, was running out.

The salvage team had to wait for the Channel waters to calm for fear of the waves causing substantial damage to the fragile remains of the aircraft.

Divers prepared the wreckage to be lifted on board a specially-prepared barge for its short trip

to terra firma at Ramsgate.

Once it was gently lifted clear, divers had to go down again to track and recover some of the parts that had fallen off during the tortuous lift operation.

Then the Do 17Z02 was taken by lorry to RAF Cosford in Shropshire for the restoration work to start.

The first step was to place the main sections in a type of polytunnel to be sprayed with a fluid to clean off the decades of rust, silt, mud and sludge.

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In a week that saw one of Kent's biggest landlords send out notices to evict some 200 tenants on housing benefit, **Chris Murphy** looks at a problem threatening thousands of people struggling to pay their rent

**A** GROWING number of private landlords are refusing to take on benefit claimants as tenants, pushing cash-strapped families to the brink of homelessness.

Soaring rents combined with reduced benefits means some claimants are at risk of falling into rent arrears, something commercial landlords are desperate to avoid.

It means that more and more are refusing to rent to those on housing support, instead only accepting working tenants.

Charities and politicians in the county are warning that families unable to get social housing or reasonable private accommodation will be forced to live in sub-standard properties or risk having no roof over their heads at all.

Warnings came in a week when one of Kent's biggest private landlords – husband-and-wife team Fergus and Judith Wilson – sent out eviction notices to some 200 tenants on benefits.

The couple, who have a portfolio of some 900 houses in the Ashford and Maidstone area, claimed it was because Government cuts to the benefit budget meant tenants could no longer claim enough to cover the rent and were falling into arrears.

Mr Wilson told KoS that it was a reluctant decision but he was trying to run a profitable business.

"I did not say I am booting them out, but it amounts to the same thing," he said.

"The tenants are victims of a system that is no fault of their own. I don't blame the tenants for it, but at the end of the day we are in business.

"Benefits have gone down and I am afraid we put our rents up 8 per cent.

"People who are working are better off and are better payers of rent than those who are not working."

As critics demanded he reconsider, worrying findings emerged that an increasing number of private landlords was doing the same as the Wilsons, albeit in a less gung-ho way.

Richard Lambert, at the National Landlords Association, said some 80 per cent of members were ditching those on benefits.

"They are looking more and more to let to working tenants, who don't tend to fall into arrears as easily," he said.

"It was widely assumed that rent rises were fuelled by housing benefit and that if benefit rates were reduced, rents would fall back to meet them.

"That's been shown to be a completely false assumption.

"There are many wider factors affecting rent levels, principally the availability of properties and the number of people looking to rent.

"As the welfare reform agenda has progressed over the past three years, benefit levels haven't kept up with rents, meaning it's a greater risk for landlords renting to tenants who rely on benefits, which is why they are looking more and more to working tenants who don't tend to fall into arrears so easily.

"The fact is there are many more working tenants looking to rent because it is still so difficult for first-time buyers to get on to the housing ladder

"However, we know of many landlords who have rented to housing-benefit tenants for many years and

# Tenants face life on the street due to a grim mix of higher rents and slashed benefits



**JUST BUSINESS:** Husband-and-wife team Fergus and Judith Wilson have a portfolio of some 900 homes around Ashford and Maidstone

have never had a problem, so our advice would be to always look at every tenant on an individual basis."

Mr and Mrs Wilson, who have come under fire for their decision as well as for their comments about "work-shy" Brits, say they are making space for people who work.

Some accused them of kicking out tenants to rent to Eastern Europeans coming to the county to find jobs.

Mr Wilson did not deny this but stressed he was making room for English people, too.

"We take people as they come and from all over the world. All we ask is they have enough money to pay the rent," he said.

"The situation is if the tenant can't pay the rent and we don't take some action, they lose the house and we then lose the house because we can't

pay the mortgage on it. Everyone loses. Every house is self-standing and reliant on the rent coming in."

When asked if the Government should do more to help those on benefits, Mr Wilson said only for those in real need.

"I think the Government is doing the right thing. My message to people is get off your backside and go to work.

"I'm afraid what's happened is so many people have left school, been unemployed for years and got into the habit of being unemployed.

"If you're young and that lifestyle is drilled in to you, then it becomes ingrained and they don't know the way forward.

"Eastern Europeans will do the jobs English people won't because they get so much on benefits."

Mr Wilson said that National Serv-

ice had instilled a work ethic in young people that was now missing.

"Out of the English people I tried to recently employ, none of them turned up on Monday morning, but every single foreign person turned up," he said.

"Don't worry about this codswallop about meaningful jobs – give them any job and they will be out of the benefit trap.

"Young people need to take a reality check and make something of their lives.

"People 20 years ago looked upon the unemployed with sympathy. Now there is no sympathy and people look upon them as skivers who don't want to go to work.

"The public perception of people on benefits has changed drastically.

"We have two-and-a-half million work-shy people here."

Stuart Jeffery, the Green Party's parliamentary hopeful for Maidstone, pointed out the eightfold rise in homelessness in the county town over the past three years and urged Mr Wilson to reconsider his decision.

"In my opinion, Fergus Wilson's action to evict 200 tenants for being in receipt of benefits is immoral.

"Discriminating against people in need of benefits is simply wrong and now a further 200 families will be looking for a home because of the combined Conservative and Lib Dem assault on people in need and Mr Wilson's desire to put profit before people.

"There is a very real housing problem in Maidstone and there needs to be positive action taken to rapidly reverse the rise in homelessness."

Mike Eddy, a Labour member on Kent County Council, was dismayed to hear that tenants were falling into hardship. He said his party had predicted such problems as a result of the welfare reforms.

**T**he controversial changes were brought in by the Coalition to stop people becoming trapped in the welfare system.

However, many argue it has instead pushed more people into debt.

The reforms include the contentious universal credit in which six working-age benefits were merged into one, paid once a month rather than fortnightly or weekly and paid directly into the claimant's bank account.

It means a change in the way claimants manage their money – and a lot more responsibility on their shoulders. It looks to make people more self-sufficient.

But while that is fine for people used to dealing with their own finances, for those who struggle to read or write, or do not have basic life skills, it can lead to a spiral into debt.

The bedroom tax is another of the reforms in which housing-benefit claimants – living in either council or housing-association properties – who are deemed to have too much living space are forced to downsize. Otherwise, they have their benefits reduced.

Ministers claim it will free living space for overcrowded families and cut the £23 billion annual bill for housing benefit, but critics say that many are unable to find smaller properties.

Cllr Eddy said this latest problem with private landlords was inevitable.

"Basically, people who are on absolutely minimum amounts of money cannot afford the rents being charged by commercial landlords. It goes back to the time Maggie Thatcher was flogging off all the council houses.

"When councils had their own housing stock, rents could be controlled and kept at a level people could afford because profit was not the main criteria as it is in the private market.

"The private sector can demand its price and that is leading to major worries for many tenants on benefits who are now finding they can no longer afford to cover their bills.

"The bedroom tax, of course, didn't help matters at all. Those that are in larger homes can't downsize because those houses simply do not exist because building is being limited. It is a vicious circle."

# Greengrass pirate story could find Bafta's gold

By Chris Murphy

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

ESTEEMED movie-director Paul Greengrass is in the running for a prestigious Bafta, with his film Captain Phillips poised to sail off with another eight.

The Gravesend-educated filmmaker made his name directing action films including The Bourne Supremacy and The Bourne Ultimatum as well as hard-hitting dramas based on real-life events such as the Stephen Lawrence murder and the 1972 civil-rights march in Northern Ireland.

United 93, his harrowing drama about the 9/11 hijacking of a plane, won an Oscar nomination in 2007.

Mr Greengrass was a pupil at West-court Primary and Gravesend Grammar schools, and then Sevenoaks School, before studying at Queens' College, Cambridge.

After years in the film and television industry and with a distinguished career in documentaries under his belt, he finally brought his talents to Hollywood.

His latest offering, which has won him a Bafta nomination for best director, is Captain Phillips, starring Tom Hanks, who is also up for an award in the leading-actor category.

The film tells the true story of Cap-

tain Richard Phillips and the hijacking of his US container ship in the Indian Ocean in 2009.

Played by Hanks, Captain Phillips is held hostage while the pirates try to negotiate a huge ransom.

As well as the best-director nomination, the film is up for best film, best actor for Tom Hanks, best supporting actor for Barkhad Abdi, adapted screenplay, cinematography, editing, music and sound.

In the director category, Mr Greengrass faces stiff competition from Martin Scorsese for The Wolf of Wall Street, Alfonso Cuarón for Gravity, Steve McQueen for 12 Years a Slave and David O Russell for American Hustle.

The space drama Gravity starring Sandra Bullock and George Clooney received the most Bafta nominations this year with 11.

Mr Greengrass, who lends his name to Gravesend's big-screen cinema at the town's Woodville Halls, is no stranger to accolades.

He was recently honoured at the Moët British Independent Film Awards, receiving the Variety Award for helping "focus the international spotlight on the UK".

He was in esteemed company, with previous winners including Jude Law, Sir Kenneth Branagh, Liam Neeson, Sir Michael Caine, Daniel Craig, Dame Helen Mirren and Richard Curtis.



**SAILING HIGH:** Paul Greengrass's film Captain Phillips, starring Tom Hanks, below, is nominated for nine Baftas

## Director's leading lights

<b>2013</b>	Captain Phillips	– one episode)
<b>2010</b>	Green Zone	<b>1995</b> The Sweetest Thing
<b>2007</b>	The Bourne Ultimatum	<b>1994</b> Open Fire (TV movie)
<b>2006</b>	United 93	<b>1993</b> Crime Story (TV series
<b>2004</b>	The Bourne Supremacy	– one episode)
<b>2002</b>	Bloody Sunday	When the Lies Run Out:
<b>1999</b>	The Murder of Stephen Lawrence (TV movie)	The Ian Spiro Story
<b>1998</b>	The Theory of Flight	<b>1992</b> Cutting Edge (TV series
<b>1997</b>	The Fix (TV movie)	– one episode)
<b>1996</b>	The One That Got Away (TV movie)	Coppers
<b>1995</b>	The Late Show (TV series – one episode)	<b>1989</b> Resurrected
	Sophie's World	<b>1987</b> U2: Anthem for the Eighties
	Kavanagh QC (TV series	<b>1985-1987</b> World in Action (TV series – two episodes)
		<b>1985</b> A Song for Africa



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**SO MANY STORIES:** Michael Wise, above centre, has published a book that brings together images drawn from his memories of growing up in the Ashford area during the Second World War

# Watercolours capture artist's boyhood wartime memories

**By Chris Murphy**  
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

**M**ICHAEL Wise was 11 when the Second World War broke out. And more than 70 years later he has published a book featuring drawings from recollections of his wartime memories growing up in and around Ashford.

The watercolours form the basis of *In Place Of A Camera*, which has attracted orders from across the UK and is now available to buy online through Amazon.

The images includes scenes of a crashed Hurricane plane in Kennington and Spitfire pilots at Bethersden.

With many previously on display at the Ashford Borough Museum, which charts the town's history, the book is the first time the images have been collected in one place.

Mr Wise in now 85 and lives in Canterbury.

He told KoS: "We had no camera, but there are vivid scenes I remember from Ashford Hospital in King's Avenue, and the crashed Hurricane was at Church Road in Kennington."

"A good deal of the pictures I remember from our back garden where

we played at Western Avenue. Also the picture where the two girls are waving to the pilots – that scene is from the Army ordnance depot on Chart Road.

"There is also the temporary aircraft landing ground at Chilmington, and the Spitfires at Bethersden. I remember the blackouts and the gas masks as plain as anything and that's why I wanted to create the paintings."

Many have only been created in recent years.

Mr Wise said: "I started painting them about roughly one a month in the early 2000s. They are all from my memories – it is a very accurate memory.

"When I look at the pictures, they are the exact scene I remember. I didn't make anything up."

The scenes depicted include Kent streets during blackouts to hinder the navigation of Nazi war planes, using sandbags to protect important buildings and the Battle of Britain, which raged in the skies above the county.

The former British Telecom worker said: "I am looking at it as a historical record, really.

"When it gets to 2039 and the 100th anniversary of the war, things like this will be popular for people to be able to look back at.

"I didn't mention Ashford in the

script because I don't want to localise the book as it is something that many people saw during the war.

"What has staggered me is that my grandson put some copies for sale on eBay and I have already had orders from all over England, Scotland and Wales."

Mr Wise was 17 at the time the war ended in 1945 and missed being called up by six months despite preparing to join the RAF Police.

His father was a merchant boat captain in the First World War.

■ *In Place Of A Camera* by Michael Wise can be bought online through Amazon.





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call cost £1.53 per min  
**Before you dial!** Have the adverts  
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Successfully forwarded messages  
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## Women Seeking

REMEMBER: Calls cost  
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£1.50 per message sent.

**mydate24**

TEXT IN NOW AND CHAT TO  
LOCAL PEOPLE. SEND:  
CHAT2 TO : 80098 (T&C'S  
BELOW)

**68YR** old widow, seeking 68-  
70yr old men, likes meals out,  
cosy nights in, lets start New  
year with new outlook. Tel No:  
0906 515 7112 Box No:  
409467

**SUE** young at heart female, very  
adventurous and looking for no  
strings fun with mature man. Tel  
No: 0906 515 7112 Box No:  
409251

**SAM**, 35yrs, own business,  
sexy, loves dressing up and  
married, seeks discreet man for  
casual meetings. Can travel  
anywhere. ACA. Tel No: 0905  
002 1960 Box No: 408297

**JAN** 38yr old attractive lonely  
female looking for  
uncomplicated fun times only.  
Status unimportant. Tel No:  
0906 515 7112 Box No:  
409107

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**0844 448 7842**

**ANGIE** 32 curvy size 16, very  
attractive, good company and  
really fun to be with. What are  
you waiting for? Call me if you're  
normal and lovely. Tel No: 0906  
515 7112 Box No: 408867

**SOPHIE** attractive hard working  
female, who enjoys dancing and  
good company. WLTm loving  
male to enjoy nights out and  
genuine laughter. Tel No: 0906  
515 7112 Box No: 408625

**MARG** elegant attractive  
affectionate lady who enjoys  
many varied interests WLTm  
genuine male 50-60yrs for  
mutual indulgences. Tel No:  
0906 515 7112 Box No:  
408511

**HEATHER** enjoys holidays,  
eating in with a large bottle of  
wine, cooking, meeting new  
people seeking interesting male  
to get to know a little better. Tel  
No: 0906 515 7112 Box No:  
408509

**ALEX** 35, very attractive, slim,  
blonde, caring sensitive single  
mum, likes meals in/out, nice  
pubs, WLTm similar male/dad to  
love and care for. Tel No: 0906  
515 7112 Box No: 408503

**SLIM** N/S female, 54, working,  
reliable, easy going, likes nature,  
animals, seeks nice male  
company, 50-64 for  
country/seaside walks and  
meals out. Tel No: 0906 515  
7112 Box No: 405745

**SUSIE**, seeks fifty shades of  
grey with guy any age but must  
be discreet, call and I will  
explain why. Tel No: 0905 002  
1957 Box 407321

**FLOR** beautiful educated  
European blonde, articulate,  
seeking similar intelligent well-  
mannered mature gent to enjoy  
socialising, conversing and  
quality times. Tel No: 0906 515  
7112 Box No: 408293

**BLONDE** female, 5ft 11ins, size  
12, likes meals out, drinks,  
nights in, walks, seeks male. Tel  
No: 0906 515 7112 Box No:  
409025

**KAREN** 55, fun loving,  
attractive, young at heart, seeks  
caring, affectionate man, 55-65  
who loves animals and the  
simple things in life. Tel No:  
0906 515 7112 Box No:  
408813

**MANDY** blonde, blue eyes,  
voluptuous, honest, likes  
animals, walks, socialising,  
seeking older gent, late 70's  
early 80's. Tel No: 0906 515  
7112 Box No: 408741

**SELSEA** 43, driver, own home,  
N/S, 5ft 8ins, slim, dark hair,  
green eyes, confident, outgoing,  
likes most things, seeks N/S  
male, 40-48. Tel No: 0906 515  
7112 Box No: 408405

**SATURDAY** night blues! Home  
alone again and looking for male  
companionship. Blonde, slim,  
32yrs, attractive, what are you  
waiting for? Call me if you're  
normal and lovely. Tel No: 0906  
515 7112 Box No: 408867

**DIVORCED** female, 66, blue eyes,  
5ft 4ins, medium build, blonde hair,  
seeks male, 65-75 for  
friendship/companionship, maybe  
more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box  
No: 403275

**SUSAN** seeking nice male,  
medium build, 35, easygoing, likes  
music, nights in. Tel No: 0906 515  
7112 Box No: 406779

**JACQUELINE** 79 widow, easy  
going, good listener, not slim or  
neurotic, OHAC, Sevenoaks,  
lonely would like gentleman's  
company. Tel No: 0906 515 7112  
Box No: 405533

**ATTRACTIVE** female, 53, N/S, 5ft  
8ins, looking for similar male, 50-  
55 who loves countryside, animals  
and is easygoing. Tel No: 0906  
515 7112 Box No: 405421

**AMANDA** 44 blonde, blue eyed,  
very leggy, fun to be with, honest  
and caring seeking kind,  
considerate honest gent 74-79  
plus. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box  
No: 405315

**SLIM** tall, elegant, feminine, N/S,  
solvent lady, young 50's, likes  
travel, red wine, seeks tall, sincere,  
Military/professional gent of high  
calibre. Tel No: 0906 515 7112  
Box No: 405707

**JOYCE** 83, widow, WLTm gent  
with GSOH for days out, friendship,  
companionship, maybe more. Tel  
No: 0906 515 7112 Box No:  
393067

**LISA** busty blonde 34yr old fun to  
be with single party goer, looking  
for similar male for adult fun maybe  
more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box  
No: 408289

**ELAINE** lonely divorced female  
with no ties, enjoys dog walking,  
cosy nights in, looking for reliable  
caring male to spend quality time  
Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No:  
408283

**25YR** old very lonely unloved Asian  
female seeking true love, must be  
very discreet, enjoy good nights out  
and able to accommodate cosy  
nights in. Tel No: 0906 515 7112  
Box No: 408249

**CATH** attractive tall blonde, likes  
travel, walking, romantic nights out,  
cosy nights in, looking for Prince  
Charming, must be passionate and  
loyal. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box  
No: 408245

**KAREN** blonde, long legged, many  
interests, very young looking,  
outgoing, adventurous, likable,  
WLTm my soul mate, could that be  
you? Pls call me. Tel No: 0906 515  
7112 Box No: 407953

**CHRIS** 39yr old attractive well  
built sporty lady looking for tall, happy,  
well built male to enjoy adult  
companionship, hopefully leading to  
more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112  
Box No: 407935

**CATHY** divorced independent  
hopeless romantic seeking special  
gent to spend really nice times  
with, get to know and take it from  
there. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box  
No: 407623

**LUCY** truly wonderful brunette who  
really loves life, seeking sincere  
male for true friendship with a little  
romance thrown in for good  
measure. Tel No: 0906 515 7112  
Box No: 407457

**HAPPY** young looking lady, 62,  
likes socialising, conversation,  
seeking nice man to share good  
times with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112  
Box No: 407383

**TALL** black male, 45, likes meals  
out, good company, romantic,  
GSOH, light hearted, seeks easy-  
going female. Tel No: 0906 515  
7112 Box No: 409621

**RETIRED** male, seeks no strings  
discreet meets with slim-medium  
build female, any age for adult fun.  
Dover. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box  
No: 409533

**MALE** seeking attractive female for  
discreet fun times. Tel No: 0906  
515 7112 Box No: 409189

**MALE** seeking female to love and  
be loved back. Tel No: 0906 515  
7112 Box No: 408941

**FIT** fellow, full of fun, 58, seeks to  
find fanciable lady for free and  
fascinating future for LTR. Find  
your jar half full. Tel No: 0906 515  
7112 Box No: 405857

**CHRIS** 52, slim, looking for female,  
25-38, slim, 5ft 2ins plus for LTR.  
Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No:  
408575

**DAVE** 50, likes holidays, meals  
out, socialising, easy going, seeks  
female 40 plus. Tel No: 0906 515  
7112 Box No: 408541

**FUN** fit, 60yr old male, seeks older,  
well-built female for no strings  
discreet fun. Tel No: 0906 515  
7112 Box No: 404971

**REBECCA** kind, caring, honest,  
lonely, seeking older gent to wine  
and dine me. Tel No: 0906 515  
7112 Box No: 402273

**DELILAH** 49, likes animals,  
blonde, blue eyes, seeking older  
gent, late 70's who is kind and  
willing to care about me. Tel No:  
0906 515 7112 Box No: 403769

**59YR** old Kent lady, bubbly, large  
build, dog lover, easygoing, GSOH,  
seeks male. Tel No: 0906 515  
7112 Box No: 403071

**I am** Eve 31yrs, slim with dark hair  
and blue eyes looking for a fun  
loving, genuine male for possible  
relationship. Single dad welcome.  
Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No:  
407601

**BLONDE** tanned female, trendy,  
46, GSOH, likes walks, pubs,  
nights in, seeks male. Tel No: 0906  
515 7112 Box No: 384852

**LYN** happy, young looking 72yr old,  
seeking interesting man, 65 plus to  
enjoy life with. Tel No: 0906 515  
7112 Box No: 403101

**60YR** old black female, sociable,  
seeks romantic, articulate white  
male for friendship, maybe more.  
Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No:  
402523

**SEMI** retired N/S ex dancer, many  
interests, honest, attractive,  
GSOH, seeks gent, 65 plus to put  
spark back into life and be soul  
mate. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box  
No: 378279

**TALL** friendly, very light  
hearted, single  
58, seeks pretty  
woman for LTR, mutual  
selection of activities and  
choosing how to spend our  
time. Croydon. Tel No: 0906  
515 7112 Box No: 407147

**BLACK** male, looking for 1-2-1  
relationship with laid back,  
understanding female. Tel No:  
0906 515 7112 Box No: 406221

**YOUNG** 70 widower, fit, lonely,  
5ft 11ins, 11st, likes drives, walks,  
DIY, meals out, gardening,  
smoker, looking for lady to spend  
life with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112  
Box No: 405519

**SEXY** fireman,  
looking  
for love and fun. Tel  
No: 0906 515 7112 Box  
No: 407883

**STEVE** 64, active, likes fishing,  
swimming, karaoke, honest,  
genuine, seeks female. Tel No:  
0906 515 7112 Box No:  
405717

**RETIRED** male 68, 5ft 8ins,  
considerate, GSOH, easygoing,  
likes driving, shopping, most  
things, seeking lady 60-70 for  
friendship. Ashford. Tel No: 0906  
515 7112 Box No: 393567

**DOG** lover short of British slim  
petite lady to maybe get into 1-2-1  
relationship and start  
something new. Smoker  
welcome, age immaterial.  
Tunbridge Wells area. Tel No:  
0906 515 7112 Box No: 404417

**TALL** slim male, early 40's,  
seeks loving female, 29-39 to  
share the nice things in life. Tel  
No: 0906 515 7112 Box No:  
407065

**PROFESSIONAL** 45yr old male,  
one son, bored of the same thing,  
seeks lady for possible romance.  
Kent. Tel No: 0906 515 7112  
Box No: 386234

**CHRIS** 68, 5ft 9ins, 13st,  
frustrated widower, likes  
country/western music, real ale,  
gardening, cruises, looking for  
companionship. Tel No: 0906  
515 7112 Box No: 402271

**55YR** old male, average looks,  
GSOH, looking to meet similar  
lady for friendship, maybe more.  
Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No:  
408227

**40 something** Gemini 5ft 10ins,  
slim, GSOH, varied outdoor  
interests, seeks similar outgoing  
female, 30-45 for dates and LTR.  
Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No:  
404535

**PAUL** 49 5ft 8ins likes  
eating/nights in/out seeks loving  
female for ltr. Tel No: 0906 515  
7112 Box No: 404013

**SLIM** 67yr old male, fit, loving, 5ft  
7ins, blue eyes, independent,  
sociable, easygoing, enjoys  
usual, seeks honest lady to share  
it all with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112  
Box No: 401245

**ALEC** 57, likes keep fit, cycling,  
GSOH, seeks lady, 40 plus for  
fitness and friendship. Tel No:  
0906 515 7112 Box No: 339463

**BRIAN** fun loving, easygoing,  
likes meals out, nights in, DVDs,  
seeks loving female for  
relationship. Tel No: 0906 515  
7112 Box No: 381449

**MIKE** 39, 6ft 7ins, large build,  
blue eyes, seeks female. Tel No:  
0906 515 7112 Box No:  
406321

**PROFESSIONAL** romantic male,  
44, likes meals out, cinema,  
music, holidays, seeks female,  
30-55 for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515  
7112 Box No: 250195

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Then let them know you might  
be interested by sending them  
a WINK ...

Simply  
Text: **WINK2** + Advert  
box no\* **80098**  
Then send to  
**80098**

\*EG send WINK2 123456 to 80098  
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## Men Seeking

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LOCAL PEOPLE. SEND: CHAT2  
TO : 80098 (T&C'S BELOW)

**PROFESSIONAL** male, early 40's,  
fun loving, independent, OHAC,  
seeks warm, sincere, fun loving  
female for LTR. Animals/children  
welcome. Tel No: 0906 515 7112  
Box No: 409745

**TALL** black male, 45, likes meals  
out, good company, romantic,  
GSOH, light hearted, seeks easy-  
going female. Tel No: 0906 515  
7112 Box No: 409621

**RETIRED** male, seeks no strings  
discreet meets with slim-medium  
build female, any age for adult fun.  
Dover. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box  
No: 409533

**MALE** seeking attractive female for  
discreet fun times. Tel No: 0906  
515 7112 Box No: 409189

**MALE** seeking female to love and  
be loved back. Tel No: 0906 515  
7112 Box No: 408941

**FIT** fellow, full of fun, 58, seeks to  
find fanciable lady for free and  
fascinating future for LTR. Find  
your jar half full. Tel No: 0906 515  
7112 Box No: 405857

**CHRIS** 52, slim, looking for female,  
25-38, slim, 5ft 2ins plus for LTR.  
Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No:  
408575

**DAVE** 50, likes holidays, meals  
out, socialising, easy going, seeks  
female 40 plus. Tel No: 0906 515  
7112 Box No: 408541

**FUN** fit, 60yr old male, seeks older,  
well-built female for no strings  
discreet fun. Tel No: 0906 515  
7112 Box No: 404971

**ADAM** 48, single dad, bored,  
seeking fun and more. Tel No:  
0906 515 7112 Box No: 408421

**DAVE** 50, seeks female of similar  
age for meals out, holidays etc. Tel  
No: 0906 515 7112 Box No:  
408415

**RETIRED** male, seeks no strings  
discreet meets with slim-medium  
build female, any age for adult fun.  
Medway area. Tel No: 0906 515  
7112 Box No: 408343

**RETIRED** male, 66, 6ft 2ins, easy  
going, GSOH, loyal, loves pets,  
meals out, life, seeks lady for LTR.  
Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No:  
407317

**MALE** 67, professional, fit, 5ft  
10ins, medium build, reliable,  
tactile, likes most things, seeks  
slim lady, let's go! Tel No: 0906  
515 7112 Box No: 407855

**STEVE** 61 4ins, OHAC, seeking  
relationship, outdoor type, homely,  
wanting mutual good relationship  
with sexy woman. Tel No: 0906  
515 7112 Box No: 407835

**ANTHONY** 48, athletic, enjoys  
country walks, seeks youthful  
female for friendship/relationship.  
Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No:  
407355

**71YR** old romantic, 6ft, likes life,  
socialising, reading, strong tea,  
dogs, smoker but house trained  
seeks mature lady needing TLC.  
Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No:  
407277

**CANTERBURY** cyclist 50's, fit,  
seeks female of similar age and  
interests for uncomplicated fun. Tel  
No: 0906 515 7112 Box No:  
394569

TEXT:  
**CHAT2**  
TO: **80098**  
START CHATTING TODAY!  
\*TEXT: 80098 Cost £1.50/msg  
received, for full T&Cs see below

**JAMIE** 6ft 1ins, dark hair, blue  
eyes, seeks female, 40-50, easy  
going for no strings fun, nights in.  
Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No:  
408051

**CANTERBURY** mature male,  
medium build, GSOH, varied  
interests, sign language  
interpreter, seeks slim-medium  
build female, 24-42 for LTR.  
Single mum welcome. Tel No:  
0906 515 7112 Box No:  
405697

**PROFESSIONAL** romantic male,  
44, likes meals out, cinema,  
music, holidays, seeks female,  
30-55 for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515  
7112 Box No: 250195

**40 something** Gemini 5ft 10ins,  
slim, GSOH, varied outdoor  
interests, seeks similar outgoing  
female, 30-45 for dates and LTR.  
Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No:  
404535

**PAUL** 49 5ft 8ins likes  
eating/nights in/out seeks loving  
female for ltr. Tel No: 0906 515  
7112 Box No: 404013

**SLIM** 67yr old male, fit, loving, 5ft  
7ins, blue eyes, independent,  
sociable, easygoing, enjoys  
usual, seeks honest lady to share  
it all with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112  
Box No: 401245

**ALEC** 57, likes keep fit, cycling,  
GSOH, seeks lady, 40 plus for  
fitness and friendship. Tel No:  
0906 515 7112 Box No: 339463

**BRIAN** fun loving, easygoing,  
likes meals out, nights in, DVDs,  
seeks loving female for  
relationship. Tel No: 0906 515  
7112 Box No: 381449

**MIKE** 39, 6ft 7ins, large build,  
blue eyes, seeks female. Tel No:  
0906 515 7112 Box No:  
406321

**PROFESSIONAL** romantic male,  
44, likes meals out, cinema,  
music, holidays, seeks female,  
30-55 for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515  
7112 Box No: 250195

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# MHA MacIntyre Hudson - National Firm of the Year 2013

*MHA MacIntyre Hudson is a growing and successful top 20 accountancy firm working with entrepreneurial businesses, groups and multinationals with operations in the UK.*



MHA MacIntyre Hudson have been awarded National Firm of the Year at The British Accountancy Awards 2013.

**Rakesh Shaunak, MHA MacIntyre Hudson's Chairman, says:**

“ We are delighted to have been awarded National Firm of the Year. It is recognition of our strategy and continued growth by our peers. Everybody at the firm worked really hard to achieve this and I am really proud of the business we have built ”

Now in their third year, The British Accountancy Awards took place on 20 November. The Awards attract more than 500 guests from practices all over the country including small local firms to larger regional, national and global players. Their criteria have been designed to recognise firms that have demonstrated excellence in their profession during the last 12 months.

The judges were impressed by MHA MacIntyre Hudson's desire to increase the quality of its client base, while investing in the business. Its strong Corporate Social Responsibility policy was also noted.

**James Gransby, Partner at the Maidstone office, says:**

“ I was delighted to see the news of the award. To be part of a nationally recognised firm is very inspiring. Our staff are relishing the challenges and opportunities presented to them ”

## About MHA MacIntyre Hudson

Following a merger in July 2013, MHA MacIntyre Hudson is in a strong position to help local Kent businesses via the Maidstone and Canterbury offices.

We provide a wide range of services to our local community as follows:

### Our services

- Advice and planning
- Audit and assurance
- Business strategy
- Corporate finance
- Restructuring and recovery
- Financial training
- HR solutions
- Outsourcing
- Tax planning
- Wealth management

### Our sectors

- Agriculture and rural business
- Healthcare
- Leisure and hospitality
- Legal
- Manufacturing and engineering
- Media and entertainment
- Not for profit (charities and schools)
- Property and construction
- Technology
- Transport and logistics
- Travel and tourism

We are ranked in the Top 20 with 75 Partners and over 500 staff, our approach is always personal and in a changing world, our support is constant thus enabling our clients to achieve their goals. From the challenges of a growing business, to the complexities of incorporation and flotation, through compliance, taxation, acquisition or sale, MHA MacIntyre Hudson will help you take the initiative. Our priority is to protect your interests, individually as well as in business; to make sure you get the best out of the world you create.

## Contact details



**James Gransby**

**Specialisms:** SME's, healthcare and not for profit

**Location:** Maidstone office

**E:** james.gransby@mhllp.co.uk

**T:** 01622 754 033



**Jennifer Sherwood**

**Specialisms:** Owner managed businesses, charities and not for profit membership organisations.

**Location:** Canterbury office

**E:** jennifer.sherwood@mhllp.co.uk

**T:** 01227 464 991

For further information, and an initial free no obligation meeting, please contact your local office.

[www.macintyrehudson.co.uk/offices](http://www.macintyrehudson.co.uk/offices)



**MHA MacIntyre Hudson**

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS, TAX AND BUSINESS ADVISERS



# A wild man fighting to get us back to nature

David Bond is a man on a mission. Fed up with staying indoors and the grip that tech companies have on the younger generation, he has started a battle to reconnect children with the natural world. **Greg Miles** finds out more.

**A**S AN adult, it is all too appealing to sit and day-dream about the days when you would wear holes in your trouser knees climbing trees or race snails in the dirt.

Unfortunately, many youngsters today don't seem to be taking advantage of the outdoors in a way that was once the norm.

That is why a Canterbury film-maker has made it his mission to change attitudes and get children unplugged from technology and wired to nature.

David Bond, a former Kings School student, is the driving force behind documentary *Project Wild Thing*, for which he filmed his young family, following their journey from clutching smartphones and the TV remote control to licking frogs.

As the self-appointed 'marketing director for nature', Bond made it his mission to grapple control of his children back from the likes of Apple, Disney and other big corporations.

It all started after he decided to stick a camera on his six-year-old daughter Ivy for 24 hours to monitor what she did.

"The thing that really made me sit up and realise was when I measured my daughter's movement," he said. "We put a camera on her head and we realised how much time she spent doing different things.

"She was only outside for 3 per cent of the day. She was in the bathroom for more than she was outside.

"We need to do something about it. I know parents who say they will lock the door and take a forcible approach, but I wanted to persuade her that there was something amazing about it.

"It was quite hard work, but it's been brilliant. She is outside about 14 per cent of the day now."

When the film was released, Ivy became a big focus for the marketing campaign, with a picture of her getting a little too close to a frog being seen in towns and cities up and down the country.

"My daughter Ivy loved it and was really proud of being on all the billboards – they were all around Canterbury," said Bond. "It was funny because she kept saying 'I'm

**UNPLUGGED:** David Bond created the documentary *Project Wild Thing* to get youngsters like his son Albie back in touch with the great outdoors



the girl who licks the frog."

In the computer age, most children are more aware of how to use apps on an iPad than they are about the technicalities of flying a kite and it is those simple things upon which Bond drew when starting the project.

"I grew up in Canterbury and lived up by the cricket ground in Dover Road," said Bond, who now lives in Lewisham with his wife Katie, four-year-old son Albie and Ivy. "I roamed around a square mile and into the orchard. We weren't supposed to be there, but no one seemed to mind.

"I was talking to my mum and when she grew up she had more space, about 50 square miles to

roam in. My kids growing up in south-east London don't go any further than the garden out the back.

**“Parents say they will lock the door and take a forcible approach, but I wanted to persuade her that there was something amazing about it”**

"It just got me thinking, is it a problem for them? We knew how much fun it was to go up the

orchards and play, but I'm not sure the new generation know about that."

The problem has been as much about parenting as what has become available in the last few decades, with games consoles becoming the must-have item for so many youngsters.

It is the big organisations that Bond has been targeting since the film's release in October.

"I knew I wanted to run something that would get on at the big brands who are trying to take our children's time," he said. "We tried in every way we could to provoke them.

**Continued on page 39 »**

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« Continued from page 37

“Toys R Us did an advert recently where they said don’t go on a boring expedition when you want to go to Toys R Us, so we did a spoof of it.”

“The brands realise they are on dangerous territory, that they shouldn’t be saying this.”

“Nintendo would say they don’t want kids to play on a games console all day long, but all they say is you should take 15-minute breaks every now and then. They want you to play for as long as possible. It would be pretty stupid and embarrassing of them to try to defend it.”

**T**he 42-year-old has not just stopped at making the film, though, as there has been a separate charity setup on the back of it called The Wild Network, which is championing his message, lobbying politicians and engaging with schools and youngsters about connecting with nature.

“We are lobbying the three main political parties to put more outdoor time in their manifesto for the next election,” said Bond, who took up film-making in 2004 after a career in teaching and the finance industry.

“For example, making it easier for adults to become volunteers so they can get outdoors. At the moment there are so many hoops to jump through.”

“If I wanted to take some kids for a walk I would need to get a CRB check. I’m not saying do away with those checks, but it doesn’t really make it easy for adults to volunteer to do things.”

“Nature in the curriculum has



**OUT AND ABOUT:** Below, David Bond took to the streets with the campaign; above, with daughter Ivy and a frog



been massacred and doesn’t exist any more. The current government is really into the basics of reading and writing but not at all focused on outdoor time.”

Bond has recently taken up a trustee role at The Wild Network, where he intends to spend a year continuing his work rather than going straight into another film.

“I’m not ready to start another one yet,” he said. “I just feel like it took so much time to make it and had a positive effect that it feels wrong to leave it behind.”

Perhaps ironically, there is an app downloadable from the website

([www.projectwildthing.com](http://www.projectwildthing.com)) that gives hints about how to fill spare time with outdoor activities, which is one of many ways the project is helping to get more people outside.

“This morning I just wanted to get them outside and play,” he said. “The garden was really muddy, so we just drew mud pictures on the wall. They were outside for a couple of hours before they even knew it.”

“Being outdoors means they can concentrate better when they come inside. It’s good for children’s development – they develop much quicker.”

Frequent screenings around the country are helping to keep the charity going.

“The profits from ticket sales are going to the charity. The Wild Network has got more than 1,000 organisations who have backed it and more than 5,000 individuals, too.”

The documentary gets its Canterbury debut this weekend at the Gulbenkian at 2pm on Saturday, followed by a question-and-answer session with Bond.

Project Wild Thing was his second work after releasing *Erasing David* in 2009. Also a documentary, it focused on Bond putting himself under surveillance and attempting to disappear, highlighting the Big Brother society in which we live.

Although he will spend time with The Wild Network, he has hopes of creating a TV series based on Project Wild Thing as well as making a documentary about land-ownership issues in Great Britain.

■ **For more information about Project Wild Thing, visit [www.projectwildthing.com](http://www.projectwildthing.com).**

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**L**AST year is still be fresh in the memory, but the coming 12 months have plenty on offer for the Kent public to look forward to.

There are festivals galore, with the arts, music and food well and truly covered, and not forgetting some spectacular days out to marvel at airshows and military vehicles.

Here *Greg Miles* provides a handy guide to the best that 2014 can offer.

#### JANUARY

**Kent History Exhibition**  
January 13-31  
Folkestone Town Hall, Guildhall St  
GET the year off to an interesting start by delving into the Kent History Exhibition by Canterbury Christ Church University. Find out about everything from Medieval monastic foundations to Buffalo Bill's 1903 tour.

#### FEBRUARY

**Game Expo East Kent (GEEK)**  
February 21-23  
Winter Gardens, Margate  
A REAL treat for gaming fanatics, with hundreds of consoles dating back decades to play on, as well as talks, demonstrations and more. Visit [www.geek2014.co.uk](http://www.geek2014.co.uk).

#### MARCH

**The Dover Film Festival**  
March 3-4  
ENJOY a look back at Dover in film during the annual two-day festival. Visit [www.dover-film.com](http://www.dover-film.com).

#### APRIL

**Heritage Transport Weekend**  
April 5  
Kent Showground  
If vintage vehicles are your thing,

# Get your calendar ready for plotting year ahead



**WAR AND GAMES:** The War & Peace Revival, left, and Thanet's gaming GEEK Expo are among this year's highlights



then this is the place for you. There will also be plenty of entertainment at the show, which incorporates the South East Bus Festival. Visit [www.kentshowground.co.uk](http://www.kentshowground.co.uk).

#### MAY

**Rochester Dickens Festival**  
May 30-June 1  
CELEBRATE Medway's links with author Charles Dickens at the annual festival, which has been going since 1978. There's entertainment for all

the family, with costumed characters and a traditional funfair. Visit [www.rochesterdickensfestival.org.uk](http://www.rochesterdickensfestival.org.uk).

#### JUNE

**Folkestone Airshow**  
June 7-8  
ALWAYS a popular event, there will be spectacular displays above the skies and out to sea at Folkestone, with action from a parachute team, a demonstration of a sea rescue and live music and entertainment. Visit

[www.folkestoneairshow.com](http://www.folkestoneairshow.com).

#### JULY

**War & Peace Revival**  
July 16-20  
Folkestone Racecourse  
AFTER a successful rebirth at Folkestone Racecourse last year, the popular revival returns. Expect big crowds and plenty of military action, with displays, stands and lots of entertainment. Visit [www.warandpeace revival.co.uk](http://www.warandpeace revival.co.uk).

#### AUGUST

**Broadstairs Folk Week**  
August 8-15  
PERFORMANCES from top musicians in the world of folk, with hundreds of concerts and workshops to enjoy. Visit [www.broadstairsfolkweek.org.uk](http://www.broadstairsfolkweek.org.uk).

#### SEPTEMBER

**Southern Model Show**  
September 13-14  
Headcorn Aerodrome  
DAZZLING displays from full- and miniature-size aeroplanes as well as action on the ground from boats, cars, tanks and more. Visit [www.headcornevents.co.uk](http://www.headcornevents.co.uk).

#### OCTOBER

**Canterbury Festival**  
October 18-November 1  
ARTS and culture come to the fore around the city, with music, theatre, dance, comedy and very much more to take advantage of. Visit [www.canterburyfestival.co.uk](http://www.canterburyfestival.co.uk).

#### NOVEMBER

**Fireworks**  
THE county has plenty of top places to see some fantastic displays around the week of Bonfire Night, from Leeds Castle near Maidstone to Quex Park in Birchington, while Halloween always offers a special night of entertainment.

#### DECEMBER

THE 12th month might be the time for staying indoors, but there are still plenty of things on offer around the county, with festive trips on the Kent & East Sussex Railway, a plethora of carol services and Christmas markets galore at, for example, Canterbury and Faversham.

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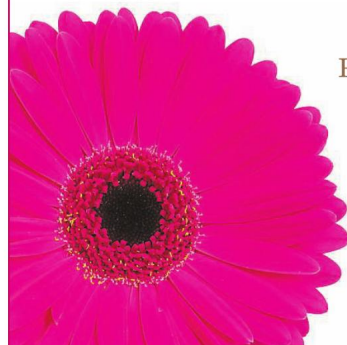
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## What will be gracing our tables this year?

Burgers, casual dining, foraging, Spanish meat... what does 2014 have to offer in the culinary world? **Greg Miles** gets the hot word from some of Kent's top chefs.

**A** new year will undoubtedly bring new trends to the culinary world. We have seen fashions come and go from the great kitchens around the county, but what will be next?

Casual dining has seen a big increase in recent years, with the public tightening its belt, and this looks set to continue, while foraging, burgers and Spanish products could all be playing their part in the future.

Here we talk to some of the top chefs from around Kent to get their views on what will be happening for them personally in 2014 and in their kitchens.

First up is Charlie Lakin, head chef at The Marquis at Alkham, near Dover. He has built up an impressive reputation at the restaurant, attaining three AA rosettes in his time there.

He has taken inspiration from others around the county in looking to make things more informal, in particular Stephen Harris at The Sportsman in Seasalter.

"There's a massive move towards restaurants being more relaxed," he said. "People are definitely looking at that now. Someone like Stephen Harris has been a big eye-opener. The Sportsman is so well respected and he's nailed it, I think. People want somewhere you can go for a meal with the missus on a Monday or Tuesday night."

In terms of his own kitchen, he has things planned out, as he explains: "I have done my own butchery and will continue with that and will continue with the foraging."

"Now I'm moving toward



**EYES FORWARD:** Charlie Lakin, head chef at The Marquis, feels the trend of casual dining will only increase

experimenting with fermenting and making my own vinegars and sauces.

"I have been massively influenced by the Nordic way of cooking things recently. Everything is going back to local ingredients and making the most of everything."

"There is definitely a trend of treating the more humble ingredients with the respect usually given to the fillet steaks. People are giving things that care and love."

**“There is definitely a trend of treating the more humble ingredients with the respect usually given to the fillet steaks. People are giving things that care and love”**

"Customers are always looking for something different. You want something you're not going to have at home. You also need to keep things affordable."

The head chef at the Michelin-starred Apicius in Cranbrook, Tim Johnson, is taking a more traditional approach to things.

"I just go with what I believe in," he said. "I try to give people things they wouldn't get at home."

"I'm quite happy to mix things like fish and meat, like scallops and bacon, but I will never do something for the sake of it."

"If I've got a strong flavour like chocolate, I will look through 20 or 30 cookery books until I find a common denominator. I have been around too long to follow trends."

"The big reason for our success is continuity – that's not to say I

don't ever change the menu, but if you have a dish that works at a certain time of year I don't see any reason you would need to come up with something new."

"Every May I will do asparagus with a Hollandaise sauce, for example."

Nevertheless, he has noticed an influence from Spanish cuisine coming to these shores, which he is making the most of.

"There are a lot more Spanish flavours coming into the UK. Spain has been leading the way the world over, whereas 25 years ago everybody would go to France," said Johnson.

"There are some quite nice meats coming through and the charcuterie stuff and salamis and cured hams. I have got no problem with some Parma ham around some monkfish."

"There is obviously still all the home-grown stuff, though."

But for Johnson there is nothing like consistency.

"What you want is to go somewhere for a meal and then go back six months later and get the same level as last time."

"There is a little bit of scope for trying out things, but there are a lot of young chefs who take on the sort of thing Heston Blumenthal's doing."



Continued on page 44 »

« Continued from page 43

"You could work for him for a year at The Fat Duck, but you're not Heston. You haven't got scientists working for you.

"One of the big trends seems to be foraging.

"There are more foragers out there than ever. It's not a case of chefs going down the hedgerows, but there are people fully qualified to do it.

"It immediately brings in different things like herbs and plants. It makes salads a lot more interesting."

**“I just like good-quality food. I get frustrated at some of the London restaurants where you're doing everything except eating a good-quality meal and you're just paying homage to the chef”**

In the north of the county, Andy McLeish, head chef at Farnborough Common's Michelin-starred Chapter One, has been watching the burger war unfold in the capital, where there has been more of a resistance to the casual-dining evolution that is gathering pace.

"I just like good-quality food. I get frustrated at some of the London restaurants where you're doing everything except eating a good-quality meal and you're just paying homage to the chef," he said.



**DEVELOPMENT?** Graham Garrett, chef patron at West House in Biddenden, wants to establish a cookery school

"I hope 2014 is the end of the recession and the country will start to recover this year. By the reports coming out, there is a bit of growth and I hope it will all be a bit more positive.

"We had a meeting about fine dining and Michelin-star restaurants and you see what Marcus Wareing is

doing at The Berkeley in London, who is rebranding as café-style Marcus. We have got to look at that and think 'Why?'. People are looking after what's in their pockets more."

"In London what we saw last year was burgers. Everybody wanted to have the best burger – there was a massive competition for it. This year

I think it will be along the same lines – as well as simply-sourced food."

The chef patron at Michelin-star West House in Biddenden, Graham Garrett, has been experimenting with different cooking techniques

"I'm always trying new things and I just hope we can carry on going in the right direction," he said.

"We are doing a lot of cooking on charcoal at the moment. It's come in quite a lot in the last year or so and is being used more and more.

"We do a lot of slow cooking, wood-roasting and all that. We use a thing called a Big Green Egg – it's a big ceramic barbecue.

"There has always been something, I've been quite lucky like that, like having a TV programme out of the blue. It makes things more exciting."

Garrett also backed the continued trend in casual dining.

"The casual dining has been picking up speed for the last couple of years. It has got really big. I think it's still going that way," he said.

"When I opened up here 11-and-a-half years ago, I didn't want table clothes and I wanted people to pour their own wine. I wanted friendly service but not a rigid service.

"I was trying to make things more relaxed. There was a bit of resistance to that. I remember when we got our Michelin star, someone said that no one offered to park our car, which was bizarre."

Garrett is also keen to expand his offering at the restaurant with a new cookery demonstration and flats for people wanting to stay after enjoying their meals.

The idea is still in the early stages, though: "I have been trying to put a planning application in to build a little cookery school.

"The restaurant is great for the village and it would be nice to carry on here and stay and develop rather than move elsewhere.

"But being a Grade II-listed building in a conservation area is proving to be a bit of a nightmare. Just finding out if it's do-able costs money."



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## NEW COURSE

The options are many as the statutory school years come to an end... we can be your guide

LOSING weight and doing exercise are always among the most common New Year's Resolutions, but with the average couch potato reportedly spending almost £1,000 on gym memberships and kit, how can you make sure you can maintain the drive through January and beyond?

Sean Lerwill, fitness guru and author of Haynes Manuals on running, triathlons and military fitness, has offered the following tips to help you get fit for 2014:

- **Variation is key:** If you get bored with exercise, then you will stop, so change it to get results. Doing the same thing, at the same time, with the same weights and for the same length = the same you – so add some variety to get more from your exercise.
- **Find a partner to train with:** Training with others ensures they motivate you even when you can't motivate yourself. People often make the mistake of picking someone worse than themselves; try somebody better than you – that way you'll be out of your comfort zone and really achieve.
- **Have a plan:** If you are going to do the marathon, get a calendar and mark down your runs, dates and times to hit. If you plan to lose body fat, mark down how much and by what dates. Have your goal and have milestones along the way. Don't let exercise overtake your life, but don't let life prevent you from exercising.
- **Join a club:** If you struggle to train alone or can't find a partner,

# Motivation the key for a fitter 2014 you



**KICK-START:** It's the start of 2014... and that means unleashing the inner, leaner, you!

join a club and find some like-minded people. Whether running, working out at a gym, or playing netball, football or tennis, a club can work as a great motivator and help you achieve those goals.

- **Enjoy yourself:** You are much more likely to stick to exercise if you enjoy it, so find some activities that you like doing... and keep doing them. But that doesn't mean that you shouldn't push yourself. Always leave the gym feeling worked, sweaty and with the knowledge you are one step closer to your goal.
- **Intensity:** Without intensity, your training is likely to fail. You need to push yourself and get out of your comfort zone. If you are doing something for the second time, then change it – do it faster, do more reps, rest less, or up the weights, but whatever you do, don't take it easy – you'll never get this session back.
- **Eat and sleep:** Without sleep, your body can't recover, repair and grow. If you don't rest, then you won't create metabolic tissue (muscle), which is what burns body fat and makes you look lean, toned and healthy. Equally, without food, you cannot grow, repair and recover. People think they should train hard and cut down food, but that's not strictly true. Eating the right foods at the right time is important to make sure your hard work is worthwhile. Eat sensibly and make good food choices.

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Experienced decorators appreciate its versatility and mood-changing ability with relatively little effort and cost.

Kent designer Lorna Crosbie-Smith is a long-term enthusiast of wallpaper: "Make a statement in any room with 'feature wall' using the boldest and brightest designs," she said.

"Wallpaper can also change the apparent dimensions of a room. For example, a stripe hung horizontally makes a room look longer, and hung vertically, look higher.

"Colour also plays a part in creating effect:

bright colours to keep you alert and soft colours to help you relax.

Create your own original ideas where to use wallpaper to the best effect and let your imagination run free. The options really are endless and very exciting".

So, where to start?

Choosing your wallpaper is fun, with innovative and exciting designs never far away. The default option for many of using the internet is likely to disappoint: colour and texture are part of the DNA of wallpaper and these cannot be seen to good effect on a computer screen.

You really do need to see the actual product and feel the texture.

Most DIY superstores stock wallpaper, but the offer will be limited. A specialist wallpaper store is generally the best option, with huge choice, advice and samples all freely available.



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# Get some peace of mind with a new-build for the new year

WITH the festive season over and the new year in full swing, it's a popular time to think about moving home.

As this could be the biggest decision you'll make in 2014, how will you choose which property is the right one?

The National House Building Council (NHBC), the UK's leading warranty-provider and standard-setting body for new-build homes, has seen the number of new homes registered between September and November 2013 increasing by 30 per cent on the same period in 2012.

With now more choice in the market than for the past several years, NHBC highlights how buying a new home can not only reduce costs but also benefit buyers when it comes to those finishing touches.

- **A blank canvas:** A new home comes free of decorating or DIY disasters from previous owners. In most cases, buyers can personalise their new home to suit their own tastes. A new home is also maintenance-free, meaning less time spent on jobs around the house at weekends.
- **Lower utility bills:** New homes are built to high levels of energy

efficiency, which reduces the amount of gas or electricity needed to keep the house warm. Recent research from the NHBC Foundation and Zero Carbon Hub has revealed new-build homes built to 2013 standards could save more than £1,400 a year on energy bills when compared with neighbouring older homes.

- **Chain-free:** Being part of a long property chain can be extremely stressful and often cause unforeseen delays. With a new home, there is greater peace of mind as no upward chain means a smoother and faster move.
- **Ten-year Buildmark warranty:** Eighty per cent of new homes come with an NHBC Buildmark 10-year warranty, which protects 1.6 million homes across the UK. Buildmark protects home-owners by providing a) recompletion insolvency cover – protection if a builder becomes insolvent after an exchange of contract; b) builder cover for the first two years after completion – the builder is responsible for putting right certain damage and defects; c) NHBC cover for years three to

10 – insurance to cover the cost of putting right damage caused by defects in specified areas, such as damage to floors, staircases, roofs, drains, windows and doors.

- **High levels of satisfaction:** Results from the 2013 industry survey on customer satisfaction with new homes, facilitated by NHBC, found that 91 per cent are very or fairly satisfied with the overall quality of their home.
- **Better security:** New homes come with security features as standard, including smoke-detectors and robust locks. And to meet the demands of modern lifestyles, electrical circuits in new homes are designed for even the most gadget-intensive families.
- **Incentive schemes:** The Government-backed Help to Buy scheme, along with some house-builders operating their own buyer incentives, can make the purchase of a new home significantly more attractive. Such incentives could include part-exchange on a current property, the payment of stamp duty or removal costs and upgraded internal specifications.



**COLOURFUL START:** A new-build comes with many incentives for buyers


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# Gym membership sounds perfect for your health kick

## ECHOES GYMS

IF YOUR New Year's Resolution is to shed a few pounds, tone up or just feel and look healthier, then a membership with Echoes Gyms will help you to achieve your goals.

As well as the state-of-the-art gym facilities at all four of Medway's sports centre sites, a premier membership also includes unlimited swimming, fitness classes, court space and use of the Medway Park athletics track.

So if you want to start January by trying something new, this membership will give you the variety you need. It offers the ultimate flexibility as you can utilise it at any of the Medway Council sports centre sites: Medway Park, Strood Sports Centre, Splashes and Hoo Swimming Pool and Fitness Centre.

After having a multi-million-pound redevelopment, Medway Park is now an elite-standard sporting facility, which boasts an extensive fitness suite that has even been used by Olympic athletes.

Strood Sports Centre also benefits from the Echoes Health Suites, where you can relax in the sauna or steam room post-workout.

For those with children, Splashes is great as the pool facilities are sure to keep the family happy and healthy.

If you are new to exercising or are a 'gym-phobe', Hoo Swimming Pool and Fitness Centre is the ideal place to begin your journey to a fitter



**EYE ON THE BALL:** Medway's Echoes Gyms

you with its friendly, welcoming atmosphere.

A premier membership will also give you free access to the On Your Marks fitness programme, specially-designed classes for exercise beginners.

There is a wide range of exciting classes on offer, including PowerHoop, DanceFit, Spin, CombatFit and many more.

There are plenty of types of membership on offer, so there will be an option to suit your needs. So sign up today and make Echoes Gyms your New Year's resolution.

For more information, visit [www.medway.gov.uk/echoes](http://www.medway.gov.uk/echoes) or phone 01634 336655.



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Its stock meets all budgets, with a variety of tastes and styles, meaning no one is left underwhelmed after dealing with Morris and Turner.

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stock from two suppliers, Morris and Turner has bargains galore in its bathroom treasure chest.

So if you are not moving but improving, Morris and Turner can help. Visit the Third Avenue showroom or pop in for a chat at Dockside Shopping Centre at the top of the escalators.

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New **PET** for 2014

Advertiser's announcement

## In dogs charity our best friends trust

### DOGS TRUST

FOUNDED in 1891, the Dogs Trust (formerly the National Canine Defence League) is the largest dog welfare charity in the UK.

Its mission is to bring about the day when all dogs can enjoy a happy life, free from the threat of unnecessary destruction.

Each year the trust cares for some 16,000 dogs at its nationwide network of 18 rehoming centres. No healthy dog is ever destroyed.

It runs subsidised neutering campaigns in areas of the UK with the most acute stray-dog problems.

Education officers give thousands of classroom presentations every year, while free teaching resources are made available to all schools in the UK.

The trust's Freedom Project helps pet-owners who are fleeing domestic violence by fostering their animals while they start a new life.

The Hope Project gives preventative veterinary care to dogs belonging to homeless people.

The trust also assists overseas animal-welfare charities by training their staff in best practice.

In 2009 the trust launched a UK-wide campaign calling for the compulsory permanent identification of dogs through microchipping. This campaign has a high level of support from the general public, vets and local authorities.

The microchips, the size of a grain of rice, have saved the lives of more than 8,000 lost dogs over the last year by reuniting them with



**ANIMAL MAGIC:** The trust has campaigned hard for compulsory microchipping of dogs

their owners – this was 1,000 more reunifications than last year. The finding is revealed in the trust's 2013 Stray Dog Survey.

The report found that 111,986 stray and abandoned dogs were picked up by local authorities across the UK in 12 months.

While representing a 6 per cent decrease on the previous year, the figure still equates to a staggering 307 stray dogs found each day.

Sadly, despite considerable headway being made by local authorities and animal-welfare organisations to promote responsible dog-ownership through microchipping, education and neutering, the survey also recorded 9,000 dogs being put to sleep.

However, on a more positive note, the report recorded more instances of dogs reunited with their owners.

For all this to happen, the Dogs Trust relies on the generosity of the public. If you can make a donation, please visit [www.dogstrust.org.uk](http://www.dogstrust.org.uk).

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The law is changing! As from the 6th April 2016 you **must** have your dog microchipped!  
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\*Offer open to dog owners aged 18 or over regardless of benefit status, subject to availability and resources of the charity. Please note that Dogs Trust does not currently fund any other veterinary treatment. No appointment needed. We strongly advise that puppies being chipped are fully vaccinated beforehand. We reserve the right to ask for proof of vaccination. We cannot chip any other pets at this event. The Promoter: Dogs Trust, 17 Wakley Street, London, EC1V 7RQ. Registered Charity Numbers: 227523 and SC037843.





# School's out... so what is next before life in the workplace?

So you are 16 years old and wondering what is next in life as your statutory time at school is coming to an end.

What are your options?

Well, there are plenty of them and plenty of people all telling you what they think is best.

Here we take you through all the available paths so you can form your own conclusions.

So, firstly, you can stay on at your current school and go into their sixth form or year 12, providing they have one – and most in Kent do.

Or how about leaving and going to another school's sixth form or college?

You could join a training scheme,

start an apprenticeship or even get a proper job, but that must have a 'real' training scheme to go with it.

But let's say you are already 18; another option is go to university.

Or you can still go on an apprenticeship or get that job, which now can be without a training scheme.

The situation for students with special needs is a bit more involved, so do check with your careers teacher.

There are pros and cons to all these possible avenues.

Staying in your school's sixth form means you remain in a familiar environment, with staff and students you already know in a building you know your way around.



**FINAL DAYS:** There is a number of possibilities school-leavers can take in preparing themselves for employment

But that can be limiting for the very same reasons. You can't stay at school forever and will one day need to be out in the real world – so why not start sooner than later?

Assuming you do want to move on, college is a good choice. The lifestyle is different from school and you need to behave like you want to be there.

A MidKent College spokesman said: "While still offering traditional vocational subjects such as plumbing, bricklaying and hairdressing, the modern further-education college is also home to a wide range of courses fit for the 21st-century, including graphic design, travel and tourism, media and music.

"Many colleges also have buildings and facilities that are the envy of secondary schools and up there with the best that academies and the like have to offer.

"MidKent College, for example, recently spent £20 million redeveloping

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 52 »**



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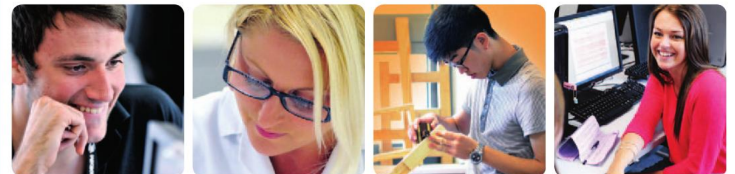
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## New CAREER for 2014

Advertiser's announcement

«CONTINUED FROM PAGE 51

its Maidstone campus and has also won Government funding to refurbish the neighbouring former University for the Creative Arts campus it now owns.

"Together with the £86 million Medway campus in Gillingham, which opened in 2009, it is not hard to see why MidKent College bucked the national trend last year by beating its student recruitment target.

"Further-education colleges across the county are also keen to point out that the experience they provide to students is a lot different than what they can expect in schools.

"For example, teachers are referred to by their first names instead of 'Sir' or 'Miss', with students also given the freedom to wear their own clothes on many of the courses."

Next up is a recognised training scheme. These can prepare you for work in a real-world environment. The BBC has many schemes that pay a wage while you are there and could lead to a career.

Job centres will also have plenty of details about schemes in your area.

Apprenticeships are back with a vengeance and offer opportunities to learn a real trade in a company that could put you on the road to employment success.

This intense, hands-on training is a way of learning by doing – often the fastest way to gain valuable manual skills.

Apprenticeships.org.uk has a searchable database of not only the types of positions available but also geographically.

And finally on this chain of thought is a full-time job with a company, but at this stage it does need to have a recognised training scheme in place for school-leavers.

This can involve time at college, but you will be paid to learn and once more, all being well,



**SMILES BETTER:** Good qualifications can go a long way in the competitive jobs market

be fully qualified, opening up further horizons.

Those wanting to aim really high can go to university, which speaks for itself.

Bear in mind that courses can last several years, but do well and with a top-flight qualification under your belt the sky can be the limit.

But it's tough to succeed without putting your heart and soul into learning. It's expensive these days, too, but if you opt to get a loan, repayments only start when you earn enough.

Schools careers officer Sharon Murphy said: "There really are plenty of options for students as they come to the end of their school life.

"The jobs market can be tough, but things appear to be getting better. The better qualified someone is, the better placed they are to beat their opposition to win a placement on their chosen route."



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## Can 2014 hit the heights?

**Joe Bill** talks to leading business figures in the county and gets their views on whether the slow economic upturn of 2013 spells good news for the year ahead

**D**URING the past year the county's business chiefs have begun to acknowledge signs of growth in the Kent economy – but these small shoots of recovery are far from flowering.

Many businesses say a 'buzz' to the commercial sector has returned, but what of 2014? Will it be a year of continual growth – or are we going to see the economy stall once more?

With the new year under way, we asked business figures to give us their views on what the next 12 months has in store...

**ROGER HOUSE:** Chairman of the Kent and Medway Federation of Small Businesses



"GENERALLY speaking, there is a 'good feeling' for the forthcoming year.

"Typically, the small and micro business sector shakes off its concerns, knuckles down to positive thinking and draws on its innovation and flexibility.

"However, we should not be complacent as, even with this warm glow, business is still on a knife-edge. It will take very little to knock many companies down. We have to understand that if they are to grow and then begin to increase employment, they have to be profitable.

"Not just profits for the business principals to live off, but to ease cashflow and finance costs and for investment. That means govern-

ment at all levels has to ease back on its tax increase."

**JO JAMES:** Chief executive at Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce



"I THINK this will definitely be a year of opportunity for Kent businesses, particularly in relation to the opportunities around the new federated model for the South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP).

"The newly-formed Kent and Medway Economic Partnership is the public and private sector board that will sit beneath SELEP to drive forward economic growth for our county.

"With funding being devolved to this new structure, it will give Kent businesses direct input into what is needed to drive our local economies forward and where the funding is best placed to support business.

"This year will be about more localised and tailored support for the Kent business community, whether through skills provision or seeking new international markets."

**PAUL WOOKEY:**

Chief executive of Locate in Kent



"WE expect the economy to continue to improve, helping us to convert many of our healthy pipeline of companies interested in investing in Kent and Medway into successful investments.

"With high-class facilities avail-

able at Discovery Park and Kent Science Park, and increasing interest in Expansion East Kent and TIGER investment incentives, the year will undoubtedly see more life-science and technology companies coming to the county, bringing with them quality jobs.

"We are also noticing an increase in the number of start-up and micro companies looking for business premises, a sure sign of growing confidence in the economy.

"As more companies look to Kent, that will put pressure on the available commercial space, and while some new developments are being brought forward, we do need work on commercial property to pick up to avoid any future shortages."

**SANDRA MATTHEWS-MARSH:** Chief executive of Visit Kent



"TOURISM is now the UK's fifth-largest industry and a key driver in the national economy.

"We are already punching well above our weight, with more than 64,400 SMEs entertaining our visitors and contributing more than £3.4 billion each year to the local economy.

"And investment in our sector continues to grow, providing new attractions, state-of-the-art accommodation and fine-dining opportunities, with more exciting developments in the pipeline.

"Tourism is always at risk of being affected by factors outside its

control – such as the weather, let alone terrorism threats. However, our businesses continue to raise their game to meet the high standards of customer service and facilities expected by today's visitors, which means our prospects for 2014 are looking very good.

"For every three new jobs created in the UK over the last two years, one was created in tourism and hospitality. Tourism is also the third-biggest earner of foreign exchange. So tourism is poised to become an even more significant driver within the Kent economy."

**GEERT STRUYVEN:**

Corporate finance partner at firm Crowe Clark Whitehill.



"CONFIDENCE in the market will continue to grow, with people investing again.

"However, this will be largely from their own cash flows as banks continue to be selective in their lending – we see no sign of that changing in the short term.

"There will also be more mergers and acquisitions, as well as a continued appetite from private equity for quality assets. Competition for talent will also increase as the demand for more experienced and qualified employees rises.

"The UK's competitive tax regime means investment from overseas should continue to grow, too.

Continued on page 55 »



# Training, courses & careers

## Soundhub hits the right note as it sets sights on top award

A MUSIC hub set up with the goal of delivering a "significant difference to music education in Kent" is in the running for an award.

Now entering its second year, Soundhub has been short-listed for a national award in the 2014 Music Teacher Awards for Excellence.

It is one of four such organisations short-listed for the Hub Innovation Award, celebrating "a regional music education hub that is already showing innovation and excellence in delivering music education across its catchment area".

More than 200 nominations were received for the 10 award categories. The winners will be announced during Music Education

Expo 2014, which takes place in London next month.

Soundhub is an organisation created to coordinate and commission music-education programmes in Kent. It is one of more than 120 music-education hubs funded by the Arts Council England.

Launched in 2012, it is spearheaded by a partnership of Kent County Council, Kent Music, Canterbury Christ Church University and the charity Pie Factory Music. It secured £4.5 million funding over three years.

There are four main aims of the hub. They are to ensure every child aged five to 18 has the opportunity to learn a musical instrument; to



**IN TUNE:** Will Soundhub be a winner at Music Education Expo 2014?

make musical progression available and affordable to all; to give every pupil the chance to sing in choirs and vocal groups; and to offer the chance to play in ensembles and to perform.

Activities for students take place both in and out of school.

Chief executive Peter Bolton said: "Soundhub is making a real

difference to children in Kent.

"Our aim is to have more young people of all backgrounds singing and playing musical instruments together, which also helps with wider learning and social skills."

The winners will be revealed on Friday, February 7, during the Music Education Expo at the Barbican Centre.

## Universities to bid for slice of £15m

PRIME Minister David Cameron has unveiled a £15 million scheme to allow universities to drive local growth plans and support innovation.

University Enterprise Zones will provide funding to locations to allow business spaces to be built to host a range of hi-tech companies in the early stages of development.

The idea is for these innovative business to share their expert knowledge at the university. The process to select three to four pilot zones begins soon.

## Johanna aims for fashion success

UNIVERSITY for the Creative Arts Rochester student Johanna Wahlman is through to the final of the FAD (Fashion Awareness Direct) competition next month.

The year-three student will be one of 17 finalists from 11 universities from across the UK selected for the contest. The winners will be named during Fashion Scout – part of the London Fashion Week

» What is your business doing to help our young people? If you have a good-news story, email [editorial@kosmedia.co.uk](mailto:editorial@kosmedia.co.uk) or call 01303 817100.

## Design group up for showroom gong

A DESIGN company from Kent has been nominated as a finalist in the Kitchen Showroom of the Year category at the prestigious kbbreview national awards.

Bespoke Interiors from Goudhurst was chosen as one of the top designers for the home and will be attending a black-tie gala dinner in

March at the Hilton Birmingham Metropole.

Founded by Richard Edmondson, the company is also celebrating its 20th anniversary.

"The showroom has always surprised people – and combining it with a tour of the workshop with pieces of furniture 'under construction' knocks visitors' socks off," said Edmondson.

## Regas offers welcome break with out-of-office experience on M25

A BUSINESS station at a M25 service depot has been opened to cater for travelling workers.

Kent workspace-provider Regus has set up its 'Express' facility at Clacket Lane services to offer an office environment to those constantly on the road.

Regus, which has business centres in Maidstone and West Malling, says two-fifths of Kent's workforce now class themselves as remote workers, meaning there is a need for a drop-in service on the motorway.

The centre offers shared workspaces, ThinkPods (private workstations), meeting rooms and business support such as cloud-based printing.

The chairman elect of the Liberal Democrats in the South East, Paul Hienkens, has to travel regularly across the region and believes the facility will become a regular touchdown point.

He said: "The area I'll be covering is vast, extending across 44 constituencies and encompassing Kent, Surrey and Sussex, which means I'll have to spend a lot of time on the M25.

"I already use Regus Express at Cobham services four or five times a month to catch up with work while on the move.

"It's incredibly useful to have access to drop-in workspace like this at service stations – not only because you have everything you need, like food and petrol, but also because the locations are generally so convenient.

"I can be much more productive in a business centre than I could in a coffee shop, for example.

"The atmosphere is professional, free of distractions, and there's also the added bonus that you get the opportunity to network with other professionals."

Roadchef, which operates Clacket Lane services, is the latest transport operator to partner



**ON THE GO:** Regus Express at Clacket Lane

with Regus, offering the pay-as-you-go access priced at £5 per hour or £10 per day.

Although remote working has become the norm, Regus says that less than 10 per cent of people want to work from home and this has created huge demand for this type of 'third-place' business centre.

Phil Kemp, global managing director of Regus Third Place, said: "We are excited to open our latest centre at Clacket Lane, especially because this area is such an important business hub.

"We already have a strong network of locations in the region, but this gives another option to business world members who live, work or do business locally.

"Simply put, Regus Express is designed to make business easier for people working on the move, offering choice, convenience and productive environments."

The 'big four' motorway service area operators – Roadchef, Moto Hospitality, Welcome Break and Extra Motorway Service Area Group – as well as office supplies Staples, have all launched Regus Express sites in the last year.

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**LEADING THE WAY:** There is help available so a business ensures it gets the right apprentice

# Investing in their future... and yours

Increasingly, young people are turning to an apprenticeship as a pathway into work. But do businesses really benefit from taking on an untrained staff member? **Jan Chandler**, manager of employer relations at East Kent College, looks at how firms can make the most of apprentices.

AS optimism in the economic recovery grows, so businesses are beginning to think about expansion.

While many will be looking to employ skilled professionals, some will want to make smaller-scale changes or even consider a mix of new and experienced staff, so an apprentice could be just the right fit.

From electrical engineering and science to catering and administration roles, apprenticeships are about more than just the traditional trades and there is a wide range available to suit any firm's needs.

Taking on an apprentice is about creating sustainability in your business by investing in the development of the required skills in an energetic and willing-to-learn young person who will be thirsty for knowledge.

However, to enjoy the benefit of a good apprentice you first need to ensure you are getting the right person to suit your business needs.

A one-to-one analysis should be carried out with the apprentice supplier, such as a college, and business to match the right apprentice and subject.

Inviting a new person to join you for a minimum of a year (the shortest apprenticeship is 366 days, with electrical engineering taking four years) is still a big undertaking, so one way to make sure the apprentice is right for your firm is to consider a traineeship first.

Offered by a select number of colleges, this is a

kind of extended work experience, running from six weeks to six months, with the student spending one day a week in college and four at your place of business to provide a stepping stone into apprenticeship.

There is also a number of ways to choose your apprentice.

Some may already be known by a business, but they can also be found by contacting colleges or through adverts on the National Apprentice Service website. The education-provider should also be able to support you throughout the recruitment process, from screening and applications to interviewing candidates.

Once you have chosen your apprentice, it is important you remember they are an investment – do not expect immediate results.

If the scheme is to work for both, you then need to take the time to train them and help them to learn your way of working.

Young people are willing to trade salary for an apprenticeship that is giving them a sustainable future.

Of course, a minimum salary is only a starting point and, as the apprentice develops, financial incentives can be a huge motivator.

Training an apprentice can be hugely rewarding and good for business, but, if you're still uncertain, it might be worth considering that 92 per cent of employers of apprentices believe this investment leads to a more motivated and satisfied workforce.



**HELP:** EKC's Jan Chandler

## « Continued from page 53

"However, there are still risks. With the general election looming, people may delay investment until they know the political landscape.

"Other issues of concern are rising energy prices making manufacturing uncompetitive, and Sterling strengthening against foreign exchange rates and adding to the cost of exports."

**GAVIN TYLER:** Managing partner of Cripps Harries Hall, which has offices in Tunbridge Wells, Kings Hill and Discovery Park.



"THE coming year looks set to be better than 2013, with rising confidence in the business community.

"However, that will not be universal.

"Retail, for example, is likely to have a tougher year than the professional services sector, but that is a national phenomenon, not just a Kent one.

"Access to bank finance should improve, although this will be constrained by the capital-adequacy ratios that banks are required to maintain to manage their exposure to risk.

"Government and local-authority support will remain focused on the more deprived areas of east Kent, but care needs to be taken not to ignore the needs of west Kent, where, for example, traffic congestion threatens to become a real barrier to growth."

**NICK YANDLE:** Chief executive of Maidstone-based Gallagher Group.



"LAST year ended better than it started, but there's some way to go before things can be described as good.

"Next year will see more companies growing and a need to find new premises. However, across Kent there is a limited supply of well-located, attractive sites.

"Maidstone is witnessing significant investment, thanks in part to its strategic location on the M20, connectivity to the M25 and Channel ports, and an ambitious local authority keen to create sustainable jobs through well-designed, good quality development."

**CHARLES BUCHANAN:**

Chief executive of Manston Airport.



"WE are confident 2014 will see major progress. The airport's management team is looking at the best way to develop the airport and continue to engage with the local community and stakeholders.

"Interest in our freight services is on the rise

as customers recognise our ability to handle flights and their cargo quicker than any other airport in the South East, seven days a week, gives them a commercial advantage.

"A key focus will also be on growing the number of passengers using the twice-daily KLM service to Schiphol."

**JONATHAN CLARKE:**

Managing director at Morgan Jones

Recruitment Consultants



"ESTABLISHED and new businesses are now viewing east Kent as a viable destination to set up, especially with a state-of-the-art business and science park in Sandwich.

"This site has allowed local businesses to engage productively with national and international companies, therefore improving opportunities that have previously been unavailable.

"Businesses are now beginning to engage growth strategies and are bringing new people into their organisations to help with that growth. Apprenticeships are going to be a valuable commodity for businesses in the coming year, helping them to train staff in specific skills.

"The job market has, to say the least, been very challenging for local people since 2008. However, it is clear to see an improving job market emerging throughout 2014."

**MALCOLM TROTTER:**

Chief executive of the International Association of Book-keepers, based at Kings Hill.



"WE expect the recovery, which has been patchy both regionally and across business sectors, to become more widespread, benefiting parts of Kent that have seen little of the recent upturn.

"With currency exchange rates unlikely to fluctuate for the foreseeable future, we can expect to see a continued growth in business for firms in Kent that export.

"Those that anticipate growth in their markets should be preparing now by developing a financially-robust development plan to take advantage of increasing demand.

"There should be some caution, however, as there is concern that the recovery in the housing market in the region has been fuelled by subsidies to homebuyers.

"The recent action to reduce these should allow the market to grow more naturally, which should reduce the risk of overheating and the dangers that brings with it for the wider economy."

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## in a held accountable

IT'S disgraceful and completely unacceptable that we have to endure the dangers and misery of power cuts every winter.

UK Power Network's boss said it was not expecting the recent storms and too many staff were on holiday.

Not good enough! We are in the middle of the heating season – the company should always be prepared.

Modern technology is available to give advance warnings.

Can you imagine the furore if supermarket bosses said they were not expecting Christmas and hadn't ordered seasonal goodies?

I believe that UK Power Network's boss should be sacked.

And what about energy minister Ed Davey MP? What is he in that job for – the prestige and a badge on his arm? He should be liaising with energy companies to ensure the nation's supplies are safeguarded at critical times.

He, likewise, is not up to the job and should be sacked as well.

And for Prime Minister David Cameron to visit stricken areas and come out with the tired meaningless cliché about "lessons learned" is not worth a light.

He is the captain of the ship, so to speak, and if he spent less time abroad playing the 'big peacock' on the world stage, he might stay here and see the country is being run properly.

Power lines in towns and cities are underground, so surely it is about time people demanded power lines in rural areas are put underground, away from storm damage.

There is no excuse not to.

We are fed up with this useless Prime Minister and his slack Government for allowing blackouts to happen time and time again without doing something positive about it.

**Roger Arnold, Herne Bay**

## Yet another gem worth hearing

I READ the article on the upsurge in popularity of local radio in Kent (KoS, Jan 5) with interest.

I was disappointed, however, that no mention was made of Channel Radio.

This internet station, which is based in New Romney, has achieved great success in just over a year's existence and is set to go from strength to strength in 2014.

It provides an eclectic choice of programming, ranging from Paul Andrews's Business Bunker show to

## LETTER OF THE WEEK



## Commuter struggles just tip of the iceberg

ONCE again, commuters from Tunbridge Wells are facing inflation-busting increases in the cost of their season tickets.

They have increased from £4,132 in 2013/14 to £4,260 in 2014/15, a rise of 3.1 per cent at a time when utility prices are climbing by more than the rate of inflation, while many employees have simultaneously had their salaries frozen or increased by less than the rate of inflation in recent years, thus reducing their disposable income in real terms.

Fortunately, I am not directly affected as I do not work in London but, from my work in the retail industry in Tunbridge Wells, in the countdown to Christmas I detected a marked slowdown in consumer-buying as customers held on to their money until the last possible minute in the hope that retailers would make substantial price reductions in pre-Christmas sales.

At the same time, other families and individuals are struggling with fuel poverty, which, leaving

aside the fact the EU's common agricultural and fisheries policies are arguably one of the greatest causes of food waste, perhaps explains why the European Commission has designated 2014 as the European Year Against Food Waste.

This, together with almost weekly news reports of suicides and attempted suicides by unemployed people, and those facing ATOS assessments either for incapacity benefit or personal independence payments, is clear evidence of the growing need for greater mental-health care, ironically at the same time as mental-health service-providers (eg Tunbridge Wells Mental Health Resource) are facing cuts in their funding in real terms.

Accordingly, while one wishes one's family and friends a happy, healthy and prosperous new year, one counsels all to be ever-mindful of those less fortunate than themselves in 2014.

**Christopher Luke, Tunbridge Wells**

music programmes catering for a wide range of tastes (everything from new, unsigned young artists to Big Band music of the 30s and 40s).

In addition, unlike any other station (apart from BBC Radio 4), Channel Radio has presented new original drama by local writers.

The plan is to feature a regular arts show on Sunday afternoons,

which will continue to showcase original drama by local writers.

Interestingly, Channel has a global audience as well as a local one.

Presenters on the station get regular feedback and tweets from as far afield as the US, the Far East and even a tiny island in the Pacific. Craig Avery, one of the founders of the station, who does a weekly

two-hour show on a Tuesday, has regular live phone interviews with musicians and actors and writers from the US, as well as playing a broad selection of music.

He has also championed the broadcasting of radio drama on the station, being a scriptwriter himself.

I have had the pleasure of being interviewed by him on several occasions in connection with plays I have written, which have received their premieres on Channel Radio.

I would urge you to at least check out the Channel Radio website and/or Facebook page for more detailed information.

I feel it represents a real media success story in Kent and the station deserves as much media exposure and promotion as possible to guarantee its continuance and expansion.

**Nigel Banks, by email**

## Lib Dems' salt to Tory EU Pepper

ADRIAN Pepper reveals the largely negative policies of the Conservatives in Europe (Feedback, December 29).

We will see if the Tories get their much-vaunted in-out EU referendum in 2017.

In the meantime, only the Lib Dems are standing in the May European Parliamentary elections on a positive platform of the UK being better off in Europe.

We do not pretend all is rosy in the garden of either Brussels or Westminster and are campaigning for the elimination of the costly Strasbourg seat and other democratic reforms.

But to leave the EU now would be absolute folly and, as many business leaders and firms have rightly said, could cost millions of British jobs from disinvestment and likely loss of trade over coming years.

**Dr Alan Bullion**

**Prospective Lib Dem European parliamentary candidate for the South East region**

## Our Hattie was born in Sandgate

I WAS interested in the article 'County's starring role in actors' route to very top' (KoS, Dec 21) by Chris Britcher – but he didn't mention that Hattie Jacques was born in Sandgate.

Another comedy actress, Jessica Hynes, who has starred in The Royle Family, Spaced, 2012, Up The Women and Shaun Of The Dead, lives in Folkestone and can often be seen around town.

**Paul Cummins, by email**

## KOS 10 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

AS part of our commitment to providing the best service to you, we have produced our 10 guiding principles which tie in with our parent company Archant's overall mission statement.

Archant's mission statement is: "We bring together motivated buyers and sellers through the creation of unique and compelling content and community expertise." This is summed up in the strapline "Inspiring Communities".

The way KoS will create our unique and compelling content is to follow these 10 principles: **Kent on Sunday will:**

- 1) Be available in every postcode in Kent.
- 2) Be fair, accurate and balanced.
- 3) Be written in clear, concise English.
- 4) Not be overly sensational.
- 5) Have a sense of humour.
- 6) Have an easily understood division between

news, comment and advertising.

- 7) Seek to celebrate as well as constructively criticise.
- 8) Highlight topical issues of concern to people living in the county.
- 9) Spotlight individual cases which raise broader concerns.
- 10) Champion causes that it feels are important to the well-being of the county and its people.





## Cobham Mausoleum

by **Terry Willett**  
from Gravesend

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## CLASSIC PRIVATE PARTY BREAKS - FREE DRINKS - OVER 40s - PONTINS PAKEFIELD, LOWESTOFT **SELF-DRIVE**

### UNFORGETTABLE SWINGING 60s PARTY **£10PP DEPOSIT** £129pp - 3 nights **half board plus** - Friday 28 March, 2014



Quote SS3-KOS

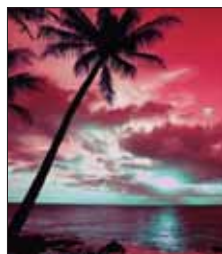
**The Fourmost** **The Ivy League** **Edison Lighthouse**  
**Union Gap** **The Cufflinks** **Free Drinks**

We've lined up some brilliant original 60s bands for our Unforgettable Swinging 60s Party at Pontins Pakefield. This great seaside venue near Lowestoft, Suffolk, will feature non-stop fun and nostalgia for our spring party. You'll also enjoy 3 free drinks per person per night.

**INCLUDED:** 3 free drinks per person every night - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers.

- Full entertainment programme
- 3 nights en-suite chalet - upgrades available
- 3 breakfasts & 3 dinners

### SUMMER LUVIN SEASIDE PARTY **£10PP DEPOSIT** £129pp - 3 nights **half board plus** - Friday 27 June, 2014



Quote SP6-KOS

**Grease** **Dirty Dancing** **Summer Dreaming Interactive Extravaganza**  
**Mamma Mia** **Free Drinks**

Our Summer Luvin Seaside Party has everything you need for a great party - a great location - great entertainment - great music - great food - free drinks - the complete package. Music from Grease, Mamma Mia and Dirty Dancing plus an all-singing all-dancing entertainment extravaganza.

**INCLUDED:** 3 Free drinks every night - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers

- Full entertainment programme
- 3 nights en-suite chalet - upgrades available
- 3 breakfasts & 3 dinners



Union Gap



The Ivy League



The Cufflinks



Edison Lighthouse



### SWINGING 60s CHRISTMAS PARTY **£10PP DEPOSIT** £129pp - 3 nights **half board plus** - Friday 14 November, 2014



Quote US11-KOS

**Marmalade** **New Amen Corner**  
**The Dakotas** **Free Drinks**

Join us for a cool weekend of swinging 60s sounds at Pontins seaside resort near Lowestoft, Suffolk. Groove to some great original 60s bands at an entertainment packed weekend break. You'll also enjoy 3 free drinks per person per night.

**INCLUDED:** 3 Free drinks every night - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers

- Full entertainment programme
- 3 nights en-suite chalet - upgrades available
- 3 breakfasts & 3 dinners

### SUPER 70s CHRISTMAS PARTY **£10PP DEPOSIT** £129pp - 3 nights **half board plus** - Friday 21 November, 2014



Quote MS11-KOS

**Alvin Stardust** **Abba Christmas Party**  
**More acts tbc** **Free Drinks**

Chart-topping leather-clad 70s rocker Alvin Stardust tops the bill for our Super 70s Christmas Party. Ronnie Wood described Alvin as 'the Godfather of British Rock and Roll'. And he's still giving it his all after a five-decade career. There's plenty of support for our star rocker with an Abba Christmas Party and more acts yet to be confirmed. To help the party go with a swing we've

included some free drinks every night.

**INCLUDED:** 3 Free drinks every night - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers

- Full entertainment programme
- 3 nights en-suite chalet - upgrades available
- 3 breakfasts & 3 dinners



Marmalade



New Amen Corner



The Dakotas

## PREMIUM PRIVATE PARTY BREAKS - FREE DRINKS - OVER 40s - WARNER LEISURE HOTELS **SELF-DRIVE**

### SWINGING SIXTIES CHRISTMAS PARTY **£10PP DEPOSIT** £229pp - 3 nights semi-all-inclusive - Friday 28 November, 2014

**Warner Norton Grange Isle of Wight** **FREE DRINKS 6pm to Midnight every night** **The Fourmost** **Little Miss Sixties**



The Fourmost



Quote SS11-KOS

Great Entertainment, Free Drinks, Free Car Ferry and a super location make Warner's Norton Grange resort, on the Isle of Wight, our most popular Christmas Party venue ever.

**INCLUDED:** Free Bar from 6pm to midnight every evening for house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers

- Entertainment
- 3 dinners & 3 breakfasts
- 3 nights en-suite chalet - upgrades available
- Car ferry crossing

### MAMMA MIA & SUPER 70s CARRY ON NEW YEAR PARTY **£10PP DEPOSIT** £229pp - 3 nights semi-all-inclusive - Friday 9 January, 2015

**Warner Bembridge Hotel Isle of Wight** **FREE DRINKS 6pm to Midnight every night** **70s TRIBUTE ACT - TBC** **MAMMA MIA THE MOVIE** **ABBA Tribute Band**

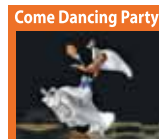


Quote BE1-KOS

Our private party extends the New Year festivities and takes us on a trip down memory lane at our favourite Warner hotel. Enjoy a gala New Year's Eve party with countdown to midnight and great entertainment.

**INCLUDED:** Free Bar from 6pm to midnight every night for house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers

- Entertainment
- 3 dinners & 3 breakfasts
- 3 nights en-suite CHALET - hotel upgrades available with rooms in main building from £259pp
- Car ferry crossing



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If you're a dance fan who enjoys ballroom and latin dancing, you'll love our popular Come Dancing Party, running alongside the Carry on New Year Party - add dance tuition, a Gala Ball, a huge dance floor with reserved table & seating and much more for just £50pp extra



By Steve Loader  
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

## Preview

### Honda Civic Tourer

Price:	from £20,265
Driving appeal:	★★★★
Image:	★★★★★
Space:	★★★★★
Value:	★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★
How green?:	★★★★
Best rival:	Seat Leon

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KENT LIFE

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# Honda's estate agent

Stylish yet capacious and compact, the Civic Tourer from Honda shows just how our humble estate car has come up in the market, writes **Steve Loader**

**E**STATES are in vogue at the moment, though the word won't crop up much at dinner parties.

You may hear boasts about people driving a Touring, Sport Tourer or plain Tourer, but the word estate applied to a car is a bit too 'trade', I'm afraid.

Traditionally, it conjures images of sales reps and wagonloads of samples, window-cleaners with ladders on the roof, and a farmer's Sunday-best car – other than the Land Rover – still practical enough to bung a bale of straw in the back.

But ever since BMW coined the word Touring for its estates and Audi followed up with Avant, the estate has gradually shrugged off its blue-collar image and gained a country-set image.

Mainstream brands have mimicked the premium ones, especially as they realised some keener drivers had tried the SUV and MPV route, found the cars dynamically challenged and stodgily styled, and sought something more responsive and stylish yet still practical.

So we've had a rash of estates by many other names in all but the smallest sectors of the market, and two more are to go on sale in the next few weeks: Seat has the elegant Leon ST, while Honda gives us the Civic Tourer.

In both cases, it's the first time either car-maker has spun an estate car from its family hatchback model, which is a major sign of the demand from buyers, and both have been executed with style as a priority without sacrificing flexibility.



**ROOM WITH A VIEW:** Honda's all-new Civic Tourer is an estate car spun from its family hatchback model

## Other view...

### the Petrolhead

You can call it any name you like, but I will still see it as an estate, aka a van, albeit not such a bad-looking one.

### the Woman Driver

I'll be honest and say I probably wouldn't look at an estate normally, but Honda is right to give this a more stylish name.

### the Eco-warrior

In diesel form, the Tourer is very environmentally attractive. The fact that it is also looks good is a huge bonus.

In the case of the Civic (from £20,265) featured here, Honda claims the biggest boot volume in its class, yet the aerodynamic lines and Honda's impressive new 1.6-litre diesel engine deliver a road-tax-exempt 99g/km of CO<sub>2</sub> and official combined 74mpg option.

This lightweight 120PS (118bhp) engine also offers a lively 0-62mph in 10.1 seconds.

Not only is the car being built in the UK at Honda's Swindon plant but it has also been designed and developed in Britain and Europe to suit local tastes.

Apart from that sensational diesel, the car is also available with Honda's familiar and sporty 1.8 i-VTEC petrol unit offering 142PS (140bhp) 45.56mpg on the official combined cycle, and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions starting at 149 g/km, incurring £140 a year in road tax.

Honda enjoys a mainstream premium market position and enviable customer satisfaction record and prices for the new car are not

cheap, but safety features and standard kit are generous, including Bluetooth Hands Free Telephone (HFT) set-up, DAB radio, USB connectivity and 16-inch alloys.

Despite its estate car 'crammability' – 624 litres up to the tonneau cover with rear seats up and 1,668 to the roof with seats down – the Civic Tourer is the lowest and most compact estate in the segment and just 235mm longer than its Civic hatchback sister.

It also carries over Honda's Magic Seat system, where the rear seat bases can be pulled up to allow loading across the rear seat wells, left in place to allow items to be stashed beneath them, or simply folded fully flat for large bulky loads through the tailgate.

The last mode also links with what Honda claims is a world first: its new Adaptive Damper System (ADS).

This automatically adjusts the rear suspension damping force to enhance stability and comfort whatever the load or driving conditions.



74.3  
mpg

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Call 01227 866266 or visit [www.barrettshonda.co.uk](http://www.barrettshonda.co.uk)

Fuel consumption figures for Civic Tourer 1.6 i-DTEC SE Plus in mpg (l/100km): Urban 67.3 (4.2), Extra Urban 78.5 (3.6), Combined 74.3 (3.8). CO<sub>2</sub> emissions: 99g/km. Fuel consumption figures sourced from official EU-regulated laboratory test results, are provided for comparison purposes and may not reflect real-life driving experience.

**Model Shown:** Civic Tourer 1.6 i-DTEC SE Plus Manual in Milano Red Non-Metallic at £22,960 On The Road. **Terms and Conditions:** New retail Civic Tourer 1.6 i-DTEC SE Plus Manual registered from 2 January 2014 to 31 March 2014. Subject to model and colour availability. Offers applicable at participating dealers and are at the promoter's absolute discretion. **The 5 Year Care Package includes:** Servicing: All scheduled servicing, as detailed in the vehicles service book, will be covered for 5 years or 62,500 miles, whichever comes first. **Warranty:** In addition to the standard 3 year warranty the customer will receive a complimentary 2 year extended guarantee taking the warranty to 5 years or 90,000 miles, whichever comes first. **Roadside Assist:** In addition to the standard 3 years roadside assistance package the customer will receive complimentary Hondacare Assistance for a further 2 years, taking it to 5 years or 90,000 miles, whichever comes first. **The 5 Year Care Package:** The 5 Year Care Package is optional. It is being offered for £500 including VAT (usual value £1,845 including VAT) and is available to finance or non-finance customers. Please note, should you sell the vehicle during the period of cover, the package remains with the vehicle.



**SERVICING  
WARRANTY  
ROADSIDE ASSIST**



BMW 116i  
Es (white)  
37,550 miles  
£9269



BMW 118D  
Sport (blue)  
30,894 miles  
£12,000



BMW 320D  
(bronze)  
22,727 miles  
£17,000



BMW 320i M  
Sport (white)  
17,709 miles  
£18,000



BMW 520D  
M Sport (blue)  
101,624 miles  
£10,979



BMW 650i Sport  
conv (grey)  
21,045 miles  
£24,500



BMW X3  
Sport (black)  
50,213 miles  
£17,500



BMW 118i  
Sport (blue)  
58,295 miles  
£11,000



Mercedes SLK  
conv (silver)  
96,459 miles  
£12,000



Mercedes E350  
Cdi (blue)  
128,012 miles  
£15,500



Mercedes  
ML320 (silver)  
77,615 miles  
£12,000



Mercedes A160  
Se (green)  
9178 miles  
£9500



Mercedes  
ML300 (silver)  
38,256 miles  
£22,487



Mercedes C250  
saloon (black)  
5882 miles  
£23,000



Mercedes  
C126 (blue)  
48,682 miles  
£10,000



Mercedes E350  
Cdi (silver)  
54444 miles  
£17,992

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\*subject to purchase at full retail price





### Suzuki SX S-Cross 1.6 DDiS SZ5

Price:	£21,749
Driving appeal:	★★★★
Image:	★★★
Space:	★★★★
Value:	★★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★★
Reliability:	★★★★
How green?:	★★★★
Road tax:	£20/year (£0 year one)
Best rival:	Nissan Qashqai

### Kent dealers

<b>Maidstone Suzuki:</b>	
Maidstone	01732 878975
<b>Lifestyle Suzuki:</b>	
Tun Wells	01892 515666

**L**IKE Skoda, Seat and the Korean duo, Hyundai and Kia, Suzuki ought to be taken more seriously by British car-buyers, but old-fashioned badge snobbery still gets in the way.

True, Suzuki's mainstream cars used to be the opposite of its motorcycles and were pretty dull, leaving the cut-price prowess of the Japanese marque's 4x4 models to fly the brand flag in any sort of style.

But there has been a subtle change of late. We've had two generations of Swift supermini worthy of their model name: the under-rated Splash mini MPV – overshadowed a little by its Vauxhall Agila clone – and the interesting Kizashi all-wheel-drive saloon, sadly hamstrung by a thirsty petrol engine and dullard auto gearbox.

There was also the Giugiaro-designed SX4, which had strong claims to being the first crossover, a year ahead of the Nissan Qashqai, and making a good fist of being a supermini-cum-family hatchback with respectable off-road performance. It should have sold better, but badge snobbery probably played its dubious part.

Undeterred, Suzuki has had another go and come up with the slightly larger SX4 S-Cross.

The name's a mouthful and it doesn't quite have the elegance of the

# Suzuki confounds the brand snobs

Buyers must look beyond the under-rated badge and see the riches – and savings – in the Japanese brand's new crossover



**OPEN PLAN:** Suzuki's SX S-Cross has a comfortable, airy interior and also comes with a full-length panoramic roof

old- or new-generation Qashqai – a slightly droopy nose is exacerbated by the rising window line – but even badge snobs might note the £14,999 entry price or 4x4 AllGrip models from £21,549.

That is terrific value for a car that fits the crossover SUV/family hatch/MPV mould nicely with a spacious cabin and decent load space – the latter's 430 litres (seats up) 875-litre (seats down) capacity compares well with the 410/860 of the outgoing Qashqai.

As ever, though, keeping the entry price down relies on buying the petrol option and doing some sums on economy and mileage versus the diesel model. Even allowing for the optimism of the official figures, the 120PS (118bhp) 1.6-litre petrol with standard-fit five-speed manual gearbox looks promising, though, with an official combined-cycle

reading of 51.3mpg. It will also hit 62mph in 11 seconds.

By contrast, the cheapest version with the identical output 1.6-litre diesel and six-speed box will set you back £2,000 more up front for an official combined 67.2mpg and 0-62mph in 12 seconds.

With its lower CO2 emissions, it will also cost you nothing in the first year for road tax and just £20 annually thereafter against the petrol's £105/year bill, but individual owners need to calculate what suits them best.

Our road-test model was a flagship SZ5 trim front-wheel-drive diesel variant costing £21,749.

As often happens with high-spec versions of mainstream marques, quality of fixtures and fittings that would seem fine at the value end of the range start to lose their allure.

That said, the interior is airy and

comfortable and everything is likely to stand the test of time; it just lacks a bit of sparkle that you might expect above the psychologically important £20,000 barrier.

It was nice, though, to see a full-length panoramic roof with a proper opening front section, too, while the leather seats add upmarket luxury, both highlighting how Suzuki has applied generous specifications across the S-Cross range.

The Fiat-derived turbodiesel itself maintains a link with the Italian marque that saw the Suzuki SX4 cloned and sold briefly in the UK as the Sedici. The engine can sound ragged at times but has decent mid-range urge and I reckon my average economy was not far off the official claim.

Keen drivers will also like the decent composure and grip of an impressive effort from what has been an unfairly unfashionable brand.

## FirstGEAR

Motoring news



### i10 takes top spot

FIRST up in the Car of the Year awards calendar for 2014 was influential motoring website CarBuyer, which also chose Hyundai's stylish new city runabout, the second-generation i10 (from £8,345) as its overall winner.

CarBuyer spokesman Steve Fowler said the Korean marque's i10 was a brilliant little car offering "real grown-up feel and plenty of space at an incredibly low price. It's fun to drive and cheap to own, too."



### Executive styling

VOLKSWAGEN has boosted luxury and style options for its family/company-car Passat range, with two new trim levels: Executive and Executive Style.

Executive (from £20,235) sits above entry-level S and BlueMotion models and gains £1,700 of extras versus the Highline model it replaces.

Executive Style (pictured and from £23,895) replaces Sport and R-Line trim and gains £2,000 of extra kit above the Executive for an additional £995.



### Chrysler now Fiat's

FIAT takes full control of America's Chrysler brand later this month.

The Italian car giant, which revived its fortunes largely through the success of the latest incarnation of the legendary 500 or Cinquecento model, took a controlling interest in ailing Chrysler – best known in the UK for the hold-all ability of its Grand Voyager MPV (pictured) – during 2011 but will now acquire the remaining 41.5 per cent holding for \$3.65 billion.



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Abbey Court is located on 2 sites; Rainham (Nursery and Primary) and Strood (Secondary and Further Education), and caters for pupils aged 3-19 with Severe Learning Difficulties.

Working hours are 32.5 p/w (8.45am - 3.45pm), term time only. Comprehensive training and induction will be provided.

Only those with childcare experience, or relevant childcare qualifications should apply.

Due to the conditions and complex needs of the pupils at Abbey Court School, continuity and consistency of support is paramount and therefore candidates for all positions will need to commit to the full working hours of the post.

This School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people, and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Record Bureau Disclosure.

For an application pack, please write to/telephone (stating the role for which you are applying):

Mrs Linda Taylor, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Kent. ME2 3SP

(01634 338236)

Please note CV's will not be accepted.

Closing date: 20.9.13

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**THE NEW SCHOOL AT WEST HEATH  
SEVENOAKS TN13 1SR**

"Rebuilding lives through education"

Principal & Chief Executive: Christina Wells

The New School at West Heath is a Specialist Independent School catering for a diverse range of needs for boys and girls age 11 - 19, many of whom have emotional and social communication difficulties. Prior to coming to us, some of our students will have been excluded from mainstream education for a period of time. Here they find a strong therapeutic approach to learning. The School has approval status from the Department for Children, School and families and has an excellent rapport with both parents and Local Authorities. The School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

**We are proud to be an "Outstanding School" (Ofsted 2013)**

Due to internal promotion we have the following vacancy

**LEARNING DIRECTOR - Post 16**  
Salary Scale L12 - L14

The Learning Director will be responsible for developing and managing a comprehensive and flexible range of services to meet the curriculum and other needs of our students, whilst ensuring the department operates in an efficient and effective manner.

Contact **Lynne McGrath** for an application form and job description

Email: [personnel@westheathschoo.com](mailto:personnel@westheathschoo.com) Tel: 01732 460 553

The successful applicant will be subject to an enhanced DBS check



Northfleet  
School for Girls

**Facilities Manager  
Northfleet School for Girls  
Gravesend, Kent**

**Full Time Post**

**(52 weeks/37 hours weekly - KS8 £23,018 to £26,952 per annum)**

We are a highly successful and ambitious 11-18 school. Our 2012 Ofsted has recognised that Northfleet School for Girls is a "good" school.

Recently redesigned, this Co-Operative Learning Trust School offers an exciting opportunity to work in a collegiate atmosphere where our motto "Always Learning, Learning All Ways" applies to everyone. The school has a strong sense of community and a belief in the values of self and social responsibility.

This new role will include responsibility for premises and grounds including the building maintenance, building access and fire and security computerised systems, to provide a high quality and effective school environment meeting statutory compliance and best practice.

**FURTHER INFORMATION, INCLUDING FULL JOB DESCRIPTION  
AND APPLICATION FORM, AVAILABLE ON OUR SCHOOL  
WEBSITE - [www.northfleetgirls.kent.sch.uk](http://www.northfleetgirls.kent.sch.uk)**

**Closing date for Applications: Noon, Friday 31 January 2014  
Interviews anticipated: w/c 10 February 2014**



**CHARITY DIRECTOR**

Maidstone Community Support Centre (MCSC) is a charity in the centre of town, which manages an important building housing about 30 community groups and charitable organisations.

It also offers a range of services from the building, including meeting rooms, halls, catering, and training space. The board has three vacancies, one for a property professional, one for a catering professional and one for a generalist with a rounded charity background.

These are unpaid positions with all out-of-pocket expenses paid.

We are in a period of growth and are seeking to expand and strengthen the size and skills of our governance arrangements.

**A role description can be obtained from  
01622 690369 or [admin@mcsc.org.uk](mailto:admin@mcsc.org.uk)**

If you are interested in any of these rewarding positions please send your CV, plus any other relevant particulars to Mike Evans, Chairman of MCSC, MCSC 39-48 Marsham Street, Maidstone, Kent. ME14 1HH.



Kent Community Health **NHS**  
NHS Trust

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phone 01474 360555.



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## Career opportunities at MidKent College

We currently have vacancies within the following area

### Brickwork

We are looking for an energetic and self-motivated individual who has both the industrial knowledge and experience of working in Brickwork with Building apprentices. Sound Industrial experience across a range of construction projects, using a variety of materials: Bricks, Blocks, Concrete and Masonry.

The post will require an effective team player who is able to demonstrate and supervise practical skills in the college workshop, set assessments and provide feedback.

You will require a craft/vocational Qualification relevant to trade; a D32/3 or an Assessors Award would be desirable, but not essential.

This post is for sickness cover over the next term.

### Plumbing

An opportunity has arisen within the Construction & Building Services Faculty for a Sessional Lecturer to contribute to the delivery development and teaching of Plumbing, Heating and Gas programmes, for two terms. This post will offer an exciting opportunity to develop and deliver Building Services programmes.

The ideal candidates must have a current knowledge and practical experience of the Plumbing & Heating Services Industry; have sufficient teaching experience and resources to deliver Level 1-3 programmes.

You will need a recognised teaching qualification; an Advanced Craft Certificate, including Mandatory Awards in Water & Unvented installations and be able to assess candidates

### Functional Skills

The College is seeking an exceptional candidate to participate in the delivery of Maths and English qualifications across all the College qualifications.

The successful candidate will be willing to organise and lead extracurricular and enrichment activities and contribute to the development of Functional Skills across the Faculty.

The ideal candidate will have experience of teaching English and Functional Skills and hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification

Please contact [hr@midkent.ac.uk](mailto:hr@midkent.ac.uk) for an application pack

The College is committed to safeguarding young people and vulnerable adults therefore any offer of employment will be subject to a DBS check.



## Carer Support Workers

Starting salary £18,200 – £19,500 per annum 37.5 hours per week  
One year fixed term (with possibility to extend)

### Team Leader

Starting salary £22,000 – £24,000 per annum 37.5 hours per week  
One year fixed term (with possibility to extend)

Carers' Support – Canterbury, Dover & Thanet provide support to Carers who provide unpaid help and support to a relative, friend or neighbour, who otherwise could not manage due to physical or mental illness, addiction or disability.

We are one of the lead members of the East Kent Carers' Consortium and have been commissioned by KCC and Health to deliver services to Carers across the Canterbury, Dover and Thanet areas. This is an exciting time for us and we are looking to recruit some additional staff to help us meet the requirements of a demanding service specification.

We are committed to providing consistently high quality support and advice services (both practical and emotional) to Carers across our area, and to reaching Carers who may face particular problems in finding the help they need to carry on Caring.

**Carer Support Worker:** We are looking for a confident, adaptable, versatile and sensitive person who will work with us to support Carers. Your main role will be to provide support and information to Carers on the phone or to those calling in at our Carers' Centre and at outreach locations. You will also liaise with other agencies, facilitate support groups, attend events and complete one to one Carer's Assessments in client's homes.

A full driving licence and your own transport are essential.

**Team Leader:** We wish to recruit someone to support the senior management team and to have day to day responsibility for the operational work of the organisation. You will lead a team of 10-12 staff under the direction of the CEO. You will need to be confident, calm, motivated and an excellent communicator. You must have proven experience of a similar role, ideally in the voluntary sector.

For an application pack, please write to: Tricia Cole CEO, Carers' Support – Canterbury, Dover & Thanet 80 Middle Street, Deal, Kent CT14 6HL or email: [Admin@carers-doverdistrict.org](mailto:Admin@carers-doverdistrict.org)

CV's will not be considered

Closing date for returned applications: Friday 24th January 2014.

Interviews will be held on Tuesday 4th February and Wednesday 5th February 2014.

Registered Charity No.1136904 Co Ltd by Guarantee no.7213672



The Spencer Private Hospital is the independently owned and managed 22 bed private hospital situated on the QEOM Hospital site. We also have a 4 bed unit at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford. The continuing growth of our business has resulted in vacancies for the following staff.

## Senior Staff Nurse

Ophthalmology and Out-patient Clinics - Part Time - Based in Ashford  
Closing date for applications - Monday 20th January 2014

### Qualifications

Registered Nurse 1st Level  
Evidence of continual professional development  
ENB 99% Teaching and Assessing Course or equivalent  
Minimum of three years experience in a surgical ward/outpatients environment

## Staff Nurse

Ward- 30 hours per week - Based in Ashford  
Closing date for applications - Monday 20th January 2014

### Qualifications

Registered Nurse 1st Level  
Evidence of continual professional development  
Experience in a surgical/medical environment with a knowledge and understanding of surgical/medical procedures

To discuss these opportunities or to arrange an informal visit, please contact

**Liz Justice - 01233 616202 Ext: 86202**

For job description and application form please contact:

**Jo Wright East Kent Medical Services Ltd**

Spencer Private Hospital, Ramsgate Road, Margate, Kent, CT9 4BG

Tel.: 01304 245961 Fax: 01304 207320 E-mail: joanne.wright@spencerhospitals.com

Alternatively you can download an application form and job description from our website

[www.spencerprivatehospitals.com](http://www.spencerprivatehospitals.com)

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## LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

### Application for a Club Premises Certificate - Licensing Act 2003

#### The Tiger Group Social Club

#### The Transport Yard

#### Brielle Way, Minster

Notice is hereby given that Mr. Terry Dodd, of the above address has applied to Swale Borough Council for the grant of a club premises certificate to sell alcohol, between the hours of 16:00 and 00:00 on any Sunday

A register of licensing applications can be inspected at <http://www.swale.gov.uk/licensing> or at Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent. ME10 3HT by appointment with the Licensing Team between 10am and 4pm Monday to Friday.

Any person wishing to submit representations to my/our application must give notice in writing to the address shown above, giving in detail the grounds of objection by:

**7th February 2014**

AB LICENSING SOLUTIONS,  
16 HAWTHORN ROAD, ASHFORD, TN23 3LT

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## LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

### Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

Toll Global Forwarding Group (UK) Ltd

Of

c/o BRS @ Thomas Hardie, 5th Avenue, Trafford Park, Manchester, Greater Manchester, M17 1TR

Is applying for a licence to use

Unit B, Acorn Industrial Park, Crayford Road, Dartford, Kent, DA1 4AL

As an operating centre for 5 goods vehicles and 3 trailers

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Central Licensing Office, Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, West Yorkshire, LS9 6NF stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.

### Public Notice

#### KENT COUNTY COUNCIL AS LOCAL AUTHORITY

#### Expansion of Slade Primary School (Community)

#### The Slade, Tonbridge, Kent TN9 1HR

Notice is given in accordance with section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that Kent County Council intends to make a prescribed alteration to Slade Primary School (Community), The Slade, Tonbridge, Kent TN9 1HR from 01 September 2014.

It is proposed to enlarge Slade Primary School by 15 Reception Year places taking the Published Admissions Number (PAN) from 45 to 60 (2 Forms of Entry) for the September 2014 intake.

The current number of pupils registered at the school is 35. The current PAN for the school is 45. Successive Reception year intakes will offer 60 places each year and the school will eventually have a total capacity of 420 pupils.

This Notice is an extract from the complete proposal. Copies of the complete proposal can be obtained from: Education Cabinet Committee, Kent County Council, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XQ, or from the KCC website [www.kent.gov.uk/schoolconsultations](http://www.kent.gov.uk/schoolconsultations)

Within six weeks from the date of publication of these proposals, any person may object to or make comments on the proposal by sending them to Jared Nehra, Area Education Officer, Commercial Buildings, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4QG. Email: [school.consultations@kent.gov.uk](mailto:school.consultations@kent.gov.uk). The closing date for objections and comments is Monday, 24 February 2014.

Signed: Patrick Leeson

Corporate Director,  
Education Learning & Skills

Publication Date: 11 January 2014



### Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

MICHAEL YORKE trading as S. W. YORKE AND SONS of 4 Malthouse Cottages, Dean Street, East Farleigh, Maidstone, Kent ME15 0PS is applying to change an existing licence as follows

To keep an extra 8 goods vehicles and 0 trailers at the operating centre at 4 Malthouse Cottages, Dean Street, East Farleigh, Maidstone, Kent ME15 0PS

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the traffic Commissioner's office.

### EXPRESSION OF INTEREST TO TENDER FOR THE TESTING OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES.

The Council invites expressions of interest to test and inspect Hackney Carriage and Private Hire vehicles from suitably qualified contractors within the Tunbridge Wells Borough Council area. The tests will comprise bi annual Vehicle Inspectorate MOT examinations and additional items for each vehicle.

The Contract will commence on 1 April 2014 for a period of three years, plus a potential to extend for a further two years. Please contact the licensing department at Tunbridge Wells Borough Council to ask for a pre qualification questionnaire which will need to be completed and returned to the Senior Licensing Officer, Town Hall, Tunbridge Wells, TN1 1RS by no later than **31 January 2014**.

For further information please contact Sharon Degiorgio, Senior Licensing Officer on 01892 526121.



## PLANNING

### NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

**NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13 OF THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010 (AS AMENDED) AND UNDER THE PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990**

**KCC/SE/0375/2013 - Proposed development at Knole (east) Academy, Seal Hollow Road, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 3SN**

Kent County Council Property & Infrastructure Support is applying to Kent County Council Planning Applications Group for planning permission for proposed redevelopment of the former Wildermesse School site: proposed demolition of existing school buildings retention and refurbishment of existing Sports Centre, erection of two new secondary schools (a 6 form of entry Sevenoaks Grammar Annex and a 4 form of entry Trinity School), introduction of new vehicular and pedestrian accesses, rearranged and extended car park to provide 242 car parking spaces and dedicated child drop off/collection and bus zones, relocation of existing tennis courts into two new Multi Use Games Areas and associated detailed landscape works.

The proposed development does not accord with the provisions of the development plan in force in the area in which the land to which the application relates is situated.

The proposed development adjoins the Wildermesse Conservation Area and may affect its character and/or appearance.

The development site is in close proximity to, and may affect, a public right of way.

You may view this application at Sevenoaks District Council, Council Offices, Argyle Road, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 1HG.

Alternatively, details of the application can be viewed on Kent County Council's website at [www.kent.gov.uk/viewapplications](http://www.kent.gov.uk/viewapplications) or at our offices in Maidstone at the address below during all reasonable office hours.

We accept comments online via our website, by email to [planningrepresentations@kent.gov.uk](mailto:planningrepresentations@kent.gov.uk) or in writing to Planning Applications Group, Kent County Council, First Floor, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX within 21 days from the date of this notice. Please quote the application reference number and note that comments may be drawn to the attention of Council Members, the applicant and other interested persons and may include publishing on the District Council website.

Sharon Thompson  
Head of Planning  
Applications Group  
Kent County Council  
Dated: 12th January 2014



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**01303 817150**





**PROW – IN THE BOROUGH OF ASHFORD**

**NOTICE OF EXTENSION OF AN ORDER TEMPORARILY CLOSING PUBLIC BRIDLEWAY AE648 & PUBLIC FOOTPATH AE345 IN THE BOROUGH OF ASHFORD**  
**KENT COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**(PUBLIC BRIDLEWAY AE648 & PUBLIC FOOTPATH AE345) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013**  
**ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

The Secretary of State for Transport has directed that the Order made by Kent County Council on the 5th June 2013, effective from the 8th July 2013, the effect of which was to prohibit all traffic from Public Bridleway AE648 and Public Footpath AE345 has been extended for a further 12 months, until the 7th January 2015.

Public Bridleway AE648 is closed from its junction with Waterbrook Avenue and its junction with Public Bridleway AW325, for a distance of approximately 950 metres. Public Footpath AE345 is closed from its junction with Public Bridleway AE648 and its junction with Public Footpath AE658, a distance of approximately 650 metres. There is no alternative route.

For detailed enquiries please contact Faye Faiers  
 Contact Centre no. 03000 417171

Or for further details on temporary closures on the Rights of Way network see:

[http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment\\_and\\_planning/countryside\\_access/traffic\\_regulation\\_orders.aspx](http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx)

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER IN THE BOROUGH OF ASHFORD HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981**

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**(PUBLIC FOOTPATH AW149 (PART) PLUCKLEY) PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION AND DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT MODIFICATION ORDER 2013**

The above named Order made on 17 December 2013 under Section 119 of the Highways Act 1980, will divert the entire width of that length of public footpath numbered AW149 which commences on the unaffected length of Public Footpath AW149 at NGR TQ 92185 45026 (Point A), 2 metres south of its connection with Smarden Road and runs in a southerly direction for 69 metres to its connection with the unaffected length of Public Footpath AW149 at NGR TQ 92185 44957 (Point B) and will add a new length of public footpath AW149 with a width of 2.0 metres which commences at NGR TQ 92185 45026 (Point A) and runs for 6 metres in a west south westerly direction to NGR TQ 92180 45023 (Point C), then southerly for 61 metres to NGR TQ 92180 44960 (Point D), thence east south easterly for 7 metres to its connection with the unaffected length of Public Footpath AW149 at NGR TQ 92185 44957 (Point B).

All directions are general, all distances are approximate

A copy of the Order and the Map have been placed and may be seen free of charge at the Offices of Ashford Borough Council, Ashford Gateway Plus, Church Road, Ashford, Kent, TN23 1AS or at the Kent County Council, PROW & Access Service, Invicta House, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX, during office hours. Copies of the Order and Map may be purchased there at the price of £5.

Any representation about or objection to the Order may be sent in writing to Mrs Laura Wilkins at the Kent County Council (address as below) (Tel: 01622 221517) (email: [laura.wilkins@kent.gov.uk](mailto:laura.wilkins@kent.gov.uk)) not later than 10 February 2014. Please state the grounds on which they are made.

Please note that objections/representations cannot be treated as confidential and may come into the public domain. Copies of any objections or representations received may be disclosed to interested parties, including the Planning Inspectorate where the case is referred to it for determination.

If no such representations or objections are duly made, or if any so made are withdrawn, the Kent County Council may confirm the Order as an unopposed Order. If the Order is sent to the Secretary of State for the Environment for confirmation any representations and objections which have not been withdrawn will be sent with the Order.

**PROW – IN THE CITY OF CANTERBURY**

**NOTICE OF THE INTENTION TO MAKE AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATHS CB511 AND CB61**  
**PUBLIC FOOTPATHS CB511 AND CB61**  
**(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014**  
**ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Kent County Council intends to temporarily close Public Footpaths CB511 & CB61, between Merchants Way and Whitehall Road from the 27th January 2014.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it is expected that it will reopen sooner.

The path is to be closed because surface improvement works are planned and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

There is no alternative route.

For detailed enquiries please contact Melvyn Twycross  
 Contact Centre no. 03000 417171

Or for further details on temporary closures on the Rights of Way network see:

[http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment\\_and\\_planning/countryside\\_access/traffic\\_regulation\\_orders.aspx](http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx)

**NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH CW54 IN THE PARISH OF WHITSTABLE AND HERNE BAY**  
**PUBLIC FOOTPATH CW54**  
**(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013**  
**ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Kent County Council has made an Order the effect of which is to temporarily close Public Footpath CW54, between its junction with Alexandra Road and its junction with Public Footpath CW53 from the 6th January 2014.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it is expected that it will reopen sooner.

The path is to be closed because surface improvement works are planned and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

There is no alternative route.

For detailed enquiries please contact Melvyn Twycross  
 Contact Centre no. 03000 417171

Or for further details on temporary closures on the Rights of Way network see:

[http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment\\_and\\_planning/countryside\\_access/traffic\\_regulation\\_orders.aspx](http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx)

**PROW – IN THE DISTRICT OF DOVER**

**NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH EE388 IN THE PARISH OF SHOLDEN PUBLIC FOOTPATH EE388 (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014**  
**ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Kent County Council has made an Order the effect of which is to temporarily close Public Footpath EE388, between its junction with Sholden New Road and The Street from the 7th January 2014.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it is expected that it will reopen earlier.

The path is to be closed because works to upgrade the route to a cycle path are to be undertaken, and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

There is no alternative route.

For detailed enquiries please contact Colin Finch  
 Contact Centre no. 03000 417171

Or for further details on temporary closures on the Rights of Way network see:

[http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment\\_and\\_planning/countryside\\_access/traffic\\_regulation\\_orders.aspx](http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx)

**NOTICE OF EXTENSION OF AN ORDER TEMPORARILY CLOSING PUBLIC FOOTPATH ER10 IN THE DISTRICT OF DOVER**  
**KENT COUNTY COUNCIL**

**(PUBLIC FOOTPATH ER10) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013**  
**ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

The Secretary of State for Transport has directed that the Order made by Kent County Council on the 9th July 2013, effective immediately, the effect of which was to prohibit all traffic from Public Footpath ER10 has been extended for a further 24 months, until the 8th January 2016.

The path is closed from Oldstairs Road to NGR TR 3796 4655, a distance of approximately 1280 metres.

There is no alternative route.

For detailed enquiries please contact Denise Roffey  
 Contact Centre no. 03000 417171

Or for further details on temporary closures on the Rights of Way network see:

[http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment\\_and\\_planning/countryside\\_access/traffic\\_regulation\\_orders.aspx](http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx)

**PROW – IN THE DISTRICT OF THANET**

**NOTICE OF THE INTENTION TO MAKE AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH TR23 IN THE PARISH OF MANSTON**  
**PUBLIC FOOTPATH TR23**  
**(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014**  
**ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Kent County Council intends to temporarily close Public Footpath TR23, for its entire length between both junctions with Preston Road from the 27th January 2014.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it is expected that it will reopen earlier.

The path is to be closed because of works to install a solar park adjacent to it and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

There is no alternative route.

For detailed enquiries please contact Michael Ellis  
 Contact Centre no. 03000 417171

Or for further details on temporary closures on the Rights of Way network see:

[http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment\\_and\\_planning/countryside\\_access/traffic\\_regulation\\_orders.aspx](http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx)

**PROW - IN THE BOROUGH OF TONBRIDGE & MALLING**

**NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981**  
**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**(PUBLIC FOOTPATH MR556 (PART) AT EAST PECKHAM) PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION AND DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT MODIFICATION ORDER 2013**

On 17th December 2013 the Kent County Council confirmed the above Order under Section 119 of the Highways Act 1980.

The effect of that Order as confirmed is to divert the entire width of that length of public footpath numbered MR556 which commences at NGR TQ 6547 4776 (point A on the Order plan), 4.5 metres to the west of the

property known as The Wagon Lodge, and runs east for 47 metres directly to the north of The Wagon Lodge, then south-east for 28 metres at NGR TQ 6554 4775 (point B on the Order plan); it will provide a new length of public footpath numbered MR556 which commences at the aforementioned point A and runs north for 31 metres, north-east for 45 metres, south for 32 metres and then south-east for 32 metres to the aforementioned point B. (Between the points A-C-D-E-B on the Order plan).

All directions general, all distances approximate.

A copy of the Order as confirmed and the Order Map have been placed and may be seen free of charge at the Offices of Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, West Malling Kent, ME19 4LZ or at the Kent County Council, Public Rights of Way & Access, Invicta House, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX. Copies of the Order and Map may be purchased there at the price of £5.

The Order comes into force on 14th January 2014, but if a person aggrieved by the Order wants to question its validity, or that of any provision contained in it, on the ground that it is not within the powers of the Highways Act 1980, as amended, or on the ground that any requirement of the Act, as amended, or of any regulation made under the Act which has not been complied with in relation to the Order, he or she may under Paragraph 2 of Schedule 2 to the Act as applied by Paragraph 5 of Schedule 6 to the Act, within 6 weeks from the 12th January 2014, make an application to the High Court.

**PROW – IN THE DISTRICT OF SWALE**

**NOTICE OF THE INTENTION TO MAKE AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE RESTRICTED BYWAYS ZSX47 & ZSX48 IN THE PARISH OF SHEERNESS**

**RESTRICTED BYWAYS ZSX47 & ZSX48**  
**(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014**  
**ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Kent County Council intends to temporarily close Restricted Byways ZSX47 & ZSX48 between the junction with Public Footpath ZSX46, and the junction with Beach Street from the 27th January 2014.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it is expected that it will reopen sooner.

The path is to be closed because sea defence repair works are planned near it and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

There is no alternative route.

For detailed enquiries please contact Michael Ellis  
 Contact Centre no. 03000 417171

Or for further details on temporary closures on the Rights of Way network see:

[http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment\\_and\\_planning/countryside\\_access/traffic\\_regulation\\_orders.aspx](http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx)


**Public Rights of Way and Access Service**  
**Kent County Council**  
**Invicta House**  
**County Hall**  
**Maidstone**  
**Kent**  
**ME14 1XX**

**Dated: 12th January 2014**

*This document is available in alternative formats and can be explained in a range of languages.*

**For further information, please contact**  
**Kent Public Rights of Way and Access Service,**  
**on 03000 417171 (local rate) Mon-Fri 9am-5pm**  
**or visit [www.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccess](http://www.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccess)**





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To place your legal notices

call **01303 817056** or email **[sallie.payne@archant.co.uk](mailto:sallie.payne@archant.co.uk)**

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## HIGHWAYS – ASHFORD AREA

### **BRIDEWELL LANE, TENTERDEN (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of works to provide an upgraded gas supply to the Zion Baptist Church, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of Bridewell Lane, Tenterden.

A closure is planned to commence from Monday 13 January 2014 for up to 1 week or until the works have been completed.

Bridewell Lane, Tenterden will be closed in the vicinity of the Baptist Church.

The alternative route is via A28 High Street and Highbury Lane, with temporary way traffic lights.

Due to the nature of the works, it will not be possible to re-open the road outside the working hours.

### **OAK GROVE LANE, HIGH HALDEN (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of construction works for a highway safety improvement scheme, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of Oak Grove Lane, High Halden.

A closure is planned to commence from 27 January 2014 for up to 2 weeks or until the works have been completed.

Oak Grove Lane will be closed at the junction with the A262 Biddenden Road.

The alternative route is via A262 Biddenden Road and A28 Ashford Road.

Due to the nature of the works, it will not be possible to re-open the road outside the working hours.

## HIGHWAYS – CANTERBURY AREA

### **SYDNEY ROAD, WHITSTABLE & THE STREET, BARHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of carriageway patching works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of Sydney Road, Whitstable and The Street, Barham, as shown below.

**SYDNEY ROAD, WHITSTABLE** – closed between the junctions with Gosselin Street and Grimshill Road 27 January 2014 – 1 day between 07:30 hours and 16:30 hours

The alternative route is via Grimshill Road and Saddleton Road

**THE STREET, BARHAM** – closed between junctions with Valley Road and Rectory Lane

28 January 2014 – 3 days between 07:30 hours and 16:30 each day

The alternative route is via Valley Road, Brickfield Road, Rabbit hole and Church Lane

## HIGHWAYS – DARTFORD AREA

### **BETSHAM ROAD SOUTHLEET (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of carriageway patching works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Betsham Road Southfleet, on or after 13th January 2014 for up to 2 days or until the works have been completed.

The work will take place between the hours of 09.30hrs and 15.00hrs

The road will be closed from Highcross Road to Westwood Road.

There will be no access for through traffic between these junctions.

The alternative route is via Highcross Road and Westwood Road.

### **VARIOUS ROADS, DARTFORD, DARENTH AND SOUTH DARENTH, SOUTHLEET (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst an event is carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Various Roads in Dartford, Darenth and South Darenth as noted in schedule 1.

Road closure for the Dartford Road Runners race on 17th January 2014. The event is planned to last one day between 0830hrs – 1140hrs. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

## SCHEDULE 1

<b>Road name:</b>	Powdermill Lane
<b>Extent:</b>	Between its junctions with Greenbanks and Darenth Road
<b>Diversion:</b>	Darenth Road, Princes Road, Lowfield Street
<b>Times:</b>	0830–1140
<b>Road name:</b>	Powdermill Lane
<b>Extent:</b>	All
<b>Diversion:</b>	No Diversion Required, Closure in place for only 10 minutes
<b>Times:</b>	0925 – 0935
<b>Road name:</b>	Warwick Way
<b>Extent:</b>	All
<b>Diversion:</b>	No Diversion Required, Closure in place for only 10 minutes
<b>Times:</b>	0925–0935
<b>Road name:</b>	A225 (Southbound)
<b>Extent:</b>	Between its junctions with Warwick Way and Parsonage Lane
<b>Diversion:</b>	No Diversion Required, Closure in place for only 15 minutes
<b>Times:</b>	0930–0945
<b>Road name:</b>	A225 (Southbound)
<b>Extent:</b>	Between its junctions with Warwick Way and Parsonage Lane
<b>Diversion:</b>	No Diversion Required, Closure in place for only 20 minutes
<b>Times:</b>	0925–0945
<b>Road name:</b>	Parsonage Lane
<b>Extent:</b>	All
<b>Diversion:</b>	A225, Lowfield Street, Princes Road, Trolling Down Hill, Green St Green Rd
<b>Times:</b>	0940–1055
<b>Road Name:</b>	Darenth Hill
<b>Extent:</b>	All
<b>Diversion:</b>	Green St Green Rd, Trolling Down Hill, Princes Road, Lowfield Street, A225
<b>Times:</b>	0940–1055
<b>Road Name:</b>	Roman Villa Road
<b>Extent:</b>	Between its junctions with Darenth Hill and Holmesdale Hill
<b>Diversion:</b>	A225 Hawley Road or Green St Green Road
<b>Times:</b>	0940–1055
<b>Road Name:</b>	Holmesdale Hill
<b>Extent:</b>	All
<b>Diversion 1:</b>	Green St Green Rd, Trolling Down Hill, Princes Road, Lowfield Street, A225
<b>Diversion 2:</b>	Paddock Close, East Hill, Rabbits Road, Canada Farm Road
<b>Times:</b>	0940 – 1110
<b>Road Name:</b>	Gills Road
<b>Extent:</b>	All
<b>Diversion:</b>	Green St Green Rd, Trolling Down Hill, Princes Road, Lowfield Street, A225
<b>Times:</b>	0940 – 1110
<b>Road Name:</b>	Wilson Lane
<b>Extent:</b>	All
<b>Diversion:</b>	Rabbits Road, Canada Farm Road, Green St Green Road
<b>Times:</b>	0940 – 1110

The purpose of the closures is to facilitate the event: Les Wotton Dartford 10 (10 mile road race on foot)

## HIGHWAYS – DOVER AREA

### **CAULDHAM LANE, CAPEL-LE-FERNE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of Caudham Lane, Capel-le-Ferne.

A closure is planned to commence from 27 January 2014 for up to 4 weeks or until the works have been completed.

Caudham Lane will be closed just to the north of the junction with Caudham Close.

The alternative route is via Capel Street, Hurst Lane and Caudham Lane.

Due to the nature of the works, it will not be possible to re-open the road outside the working hours.

## HIGHWAYS – GRAVESHAM AREA

### **KENT COUNTY COUNCIL CLIVE ROAD GRAVESEND (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because Cobra Traffic Management will be placing a cherry picker on the highway to access and maintain a telecom mast, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Clive Road, on or after

Sunday the 19th January 2014 for a period of up to 4 consecutive Sundays (19th, 26th January, 2nd and 9th February 2014) each for one night until the works are completed.

The road will be closed from Stone Street to Anglesea (Thamesgate) Centre carpark access road.

There will be no access for through traffic at this location.

The alternative route is via Railway Place, Windmill Street, Woodville place, Wrotham Road, Old Road West, Pelham Road and Darnley Road.

The existing no entry into King Street from Princes Street and New Road will also be temporarily suspended on the 19th, 26th January 2nd and 9th February 2014 from 20.00hrs to 06.00hrs to enable traffic to use King Street and Windmill Street as a diversion route.

### **COBHAMBURY ROAD, GRAVESHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of Bridge coring works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Cobhambury Road, Gravesham, on or after 14th January 2014 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between Warren Road and Batts Road.

There will be no access for through traffic between these junctions.

The alternative route is via The alternative route is via Halfpence Lane, Brewers Road, Ridgeway, Peartree Lane, Gravesend Road, London Road, Northcote road, Cuxton Road, Sundridge Hill Bush Road, and vice versa.

### **CRUTCHES LANE HIGHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of Pre Patching to surface dressing, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Crutches Lane Higham on or after 13th January 2014 for up to 6 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with A226 Gravesend Road and Old Watling Street.

There will be no access for through traffic between these junctions.

The alternative route is via A226 Gravesend Road, B2108 Rede Court Road, A2 Watling Street and Old Watling Street.

### **WATERTON AVENUE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of Pre Patching to microsurface dressing, Kent County Council intend to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Waterton Avenue, on or after 21st January 2014 for up to 4 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between junction with Denton Street and Mark Lane.

There will be no access for through traffic between these junctions

The alternative route is via Denton Street, Lower Range Road and Mark Lane.

## HIGHWAYS – MAIDSTONE AREA

### **HART STREET (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because it is necessary to install a new water main and connection, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Hart Street, on or after 27 January 2014 for up to 7 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the junction with Barker Road.

The alternative route is via Barker Road.

### **SPOT LANE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of gas mains replacement and to replace BT covers, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Spot Lane, on or after 14 January 2014 for up to 8 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from Royston Road to Yeoman Way.

The alternative route is via Royston Road, Madgingford Road, Willington Street, Deringwood Drive and Mallards Way.

### **STILEBRIDGE LANE, LINTON (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of a new customer connection, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Stilebridge Lane, Linton, on or after 13 January 2014 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The whole length of the road will be closed.

The alternative route is via Butt Green Lane and A229 Linton Hill.

## HIGHWAYS–SEVENOAKS AREA

### **MOORDEN LANE, LEIGH, SEVENOAKS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of pre-patching works to surface dressing, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Moorden Lane, Leigh, Sevenoaks, on or after 30th January 2014 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junction of Tonbridge Road and Penhurst Road and there will be no access for through traffic at this location.

The alternative route is via: Tonbridge Road, Penhurst Road.

### **SPEEDGATE HILL, FAWKHAM, SEVENOAKS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of allowing BT safe access to the carriageway to undertake de-silting and cabling works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Speedgate Hill, Fawkham, Sevenoaks, on or after 14th January 2014 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at Speedgate Hill at the junction with Valley Road and Mussenden Lane and at the junction with Lombard Street. There will be no access for through traffic at this location.

The alternative route is:

Speedgate Hill via:-Valley Road, Sun Hill, Three Gates Hill and vice versa.

Mussenden Lane via:-

Southbound: Lombard Street, Skinny Lane, Rabbits Road, Canada Farm Road, Three Gates Road

Northbound: Three Gates Road, School Lane, Lombard Street

## HIGHWAYS – THANET AREA

### **BROADLEY ROAD & FOOTPATH TM8, MARGATE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of works to remove scrap cable from the railway bridge, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of Broadley Road and Footpath TM8, Margate.

A closure is planned to commence from Saturday 1 February 2014 at 22:00 hours through until Monday 3 February at 04:00 hours.

Broadley Road, Margate will be closed in the vicinity of the railway bridge.

There will be no through access for vehicles or pedestrians between the junctions with Dane Valley Road and public bridleway TM5/TB19A (St Peter's Footpath)

For further information, please contact  
Kent County Council Highways and Transportation,  
on 03000 418181 (local rate)  
or visit [www.kent.gov.uk/highways](http://www.kent.gov.uk/highways)





## HIGHWAYS

There is no alternative route for vehicles. The alternative route for pedestrians is Dane Valley Road, Shallows Road, Dane Court Road and Broadley Road.

### **NASH ROAD & MANSTON COURT ROAD, MARGATE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014**

#### **THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of works to divert electricity cables within the carriageway for a new development, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on sections of Nash Road & Manston Court Road, Margate, as shown below.

**NASH ROAD, MARGATE** will be closed at the junction with A256 Haine Road, for a distance of up to 30 metres northwards

A closure is planned to commence on or after 13 January 2014 for up to 4 weeks

The alternative route is via A256 Haine Road and New Star Lane Link

**MANSTON COURT ROAD, MARGATE** will be closed in the vicinity of the former junction with Star Lane

Access will remain from the Manston direction up to where the road is closed, but no through access to Haine Road

A closure is planned to commence on or after 10 February 2014 for up to 2 weeks

The alternative route is via B2050 Manston Road, Haine Road, New Haine Road and Haine Road

The dates of both closures are yet to be fully confirmed, and will be notified once known.

Due to the nature of the works, it will not be possible to re-open either road outside the working hours.

### **PARK PLACE, MARGATE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014**

#### **THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of works to provide a gas supply to a new development, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of Park Place, Margate.

A closure is planned to commence from 27 January 2014 for up to 5 days.

Park Place, Margate will be closed between numbers 23-27, with no through access.

The alternative route is via Grosvenor Gardens, Churchfields, High Street and Grosvenor Hill.

The Prohibition of Driving and One-way Traffic Orders in respect of High Street, Margate will be suspended, between the junctions with Mill Lane and Grosvenor Hill.

Due to the nature of the works, it will not be possible to re-open the road outside the working hours.

### **VARIOUS ROADS, BROADSTAIRS & RAMSGATE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014**

#### **THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of carriageway patching works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on various Roads in Broadstairs and Ramsgate.

The roads affected, planned dates and times of closure and alternative routes are as shown below.

**LINDEN AVENUE and DALMANEY CLOSE, BROADSTAIRS** – closed for their entire lengths

30 January 2014 for 3 days – 07:30 hours to 16:30 hours each day

There is no alternative route, and every effort will be made to maintain access from one or other direction when safe to do so.

**HOPEVILLE AVENUE, ST PETER'S** – closed beyond the entrance to the Co-op and Doctor's surgery

3 February 2014 for 2 days – 09:30 hours to 14:30 hours each day

There is no alternative route, and every effort will be made to maintain access, including for buses, when safe to do so.

**HIGH STREET, ST PETER'S** – closed between the junctions with Church Street and Harrow Dene

5 February 2014 for 2 days – 09:30 hours to 14:30 hours each day

The alternative route is via Church Street, B2053 Albion Road, Sowell Street and High Street

**CHURCH STREET, ST PETER'S** – closed between the junctions Vicarage Street and B2053 Albion Road

17 February 2014 for 1 day between 09:30 hours and 16:00 hours

The alternative route is via B2053 Albion Road, B2053 St Peter's Park Road and A255 Broadstairs Road.

**DUMPTON LANE, RAMSGATE** – closed between the junctions with College Road and West Dumpton Lane

17 February 2014 for 3 days – 09:30 hours and 16:00 hours each day

The alternative route is via Cecilia Road, A255 Hereson Road, Ramsgate Road and West Dum

## HIGHWAYS – TONBRIDGE & MALLING AREA

### **GARDEN ROAD & STRAWBERRY VALE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014**

#### **THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of carriageway patching, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Garden Road on or after 13 January 2014 and Strawberry Vale, on or after 15 January 2014 for up to 2 days or until the works have been completed.

The whole length of the roads will be closed.

The alternative route for Strawberry Vale is via Priory Road, B2260 Railway Approach and Vale Road.

### **WEST STREET, WEST MALLING (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2014**

#### **THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because it is necessary to clear blockages on a BT duct, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on West Street, West Malling, on or after 27 January 2014 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from High Street to outside number 16.

The alternative route is via Offham Road, Teston Road, St Leonards Street and High Street.

John Burr  
Director of Highways & Transportation  
Kent County Council  
Invicta House  
County Hall,  
Maidstone  
Kent ME14 1XQ

Dated 12<sup>th</sup> January 2014

For further information, please contact  
Kent County Council Highways and Transportation,  
on 03000 418181 (local rate)  
or visit [www.kent.gov.uk/highways](http://www.kent.gov.uk/highways)



## PLANNING



# Planning applications

Notice under Article 13 of the Town & Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2010  
Notice under Article 8 of the Town & Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995  
Notice under Section 67 and/or Section 73 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990  
Notice under Regulation 5 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990  
Notice under Regulation 5A of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2004

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the council:

- CA/13/01521/FUL: Downland Cycles Ltd, Malthouse Road, Canterbury, CT2 7JA** Demolition of existing workshop and creation of 14 apartments. **Applicant: Clague** Reason: Major development.
- CA/13/01851/VAR: 8 Dolphin Street, Herne Bay, CT6 5LY** Variation of condition 03 (Code for Sustainable Homes) in respect of planning permission CA/12/01330/FUL. **Applicant: Mr S Hawken and Miss P Mason** Reason: Conservation area.
- CA/13/02051/FUL: 105 Albert Street, Whitstable, CT5 1HU** Replacing existing aluminium double glazing to the front of the property with new uPVC units in a matching design. **Applicant: Mr R McLachlan** Reason: Conservation area.
- CA/13/02197/FUL: Ford Manor Farm East, Ford Hill, Hoath, CT3 4LS** Conversion of oasthouse to residential use, (Re-submission of CA/12/02252/FUL). **Applicant: J E Batchelor & Partners** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
- CA/13/02198/LB: Ford Manor Farm East, Ford Hill, Hoath, CT3 4LS** Conversion of oasthouse to residential use, (Re-submission of CA/12/02252/FUL). **Applicant: J E Batchelor & Partners** Reason: Work to a listed building.
- CA/13/02220/FUL: 2 Beacon Hill, Herne Bay, CT6 6AU** Conversion of detached double garage into a two bedroom detached dwellinghouse to be used solely as accommodation ancillary to the main dwelling, removal of a 2m section of boundary wall to form additional parking area of 9m wide and 5m deep, installation of a covered deck area and hot tub. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs A Evans** Reason: Conservation area.
- CA/13/02262/FUL: 25A Albert Street, Whitstable, CT5 1HP** Replacement fencing to side of 25A and 25B Albert Street with new access to the pedestrianised area of Boxley Street. **Applicant: Mr D Manning** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
- CA/13/02265/FUL: 46 Gordon Road, Herne Bay, CT6 5QT** New white uPVC box sash windows to front of house. **Applicant: Mr D Holness** Reason: Conservation area.
- CA/13/02282/LB: 25A Albert Street, Whitstable, CT5 1HP** Replacement fencing to side of 25A and 25B Albert Street with new access to the pedestrianised area of Boxley Street. **Applicant: Mr D Manning** Reason: Work to a listed building.
- CA/13/02289/FUL: Flat 2, 97 Harbour Street, Whitstable, CT5 1AD** Replace four windows and two doors. **Applicant: Miss Epton** Reason: Conservation area.
- CA/13/02293/LB: 51-52 St Dunstons Street, Canterbury, CT2 8BS** Change of use from Class A2 (financial and professional services) to Class A5 (hot food takeaway) and the retention of an 'automatic teller machine' together with external and internal alterations - including the installation of ventilation and extraction equipment. **Applicant: Domino's Pizza Group Limited** Reason: Work to a listed building.
- CA/13/02294/FUL: 51-52 St Dunstons Street, Canterbury, CT2 8BS** Change of use from Class A2 (financial and professional services) to Class A5 (hot food takeaway) and the retention of an 'automatic teller machine' together with external and internal alterations - including the installation of ventilation and extraction equipment. **Applicant: Domino's Pizza Group Limited** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
- CA/13/02343/FUL: Westgate Hall, Westgate Hall Road, Canterbury, CT1 2BT** The formation of dormer ventilation in roof, replacement of roof material, installation of acoustic timber screen around new condenser units, and installation of satellite dish. **Applicant: Corinthian Curzon Ltd** Reason: Conservation area.
- CA/13/02349/FUL: Former Spires Academy, Bredlands Lane, Sturry, CT2 0HB** Demolition of the former Spires Academy and the construction of 80 dwellings with associated infrastructure provision. **Applicant: Town & County Housing Group and Kier Homes** Reason: Contrary to development plan and major.
- CA/13/02365/FUL: 24 High Street, Bridge, CT4 5JY** Construct three bay garage with first-floor office, install perimeter fencing and undertake associated landscaping. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs Sheardown** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
- CA/13/02370/TPO: Land at Barham Court, Barham** Works to two Beech trees and two Lime trees subject to tree protection orders at Barham Court. **Applicant: Mrs Elizabeth Gordons 1986 Discretionary Trust** Reason: Conservation area.
- CA/13/02395/FUL: Beechmount, Conyngham Lane, Bridge, CT4 5JX** Creation of a new vehicular access to garden and woodland. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs Forbes** Reason: Conservation area.
- CA/13/02397/FUL: 17 Old Dover Road, Canterbury, CT1 3JB** Planning application for change of use from Sui Generis to B1 in rooms as shown on submitted plans. **Applicant: DRW Architects Ltd** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
- CA/13/02398/FUL: Colemans Cottage, Highland Court Farm, Coldharbour Lane, Bridge, CT4 5HW** Agrochemical storage and distribution facility with office, amenity, and service yard, including the demolition of Colemans Cottage. **Applicant: Acting for H L Hutchinson** Reason: Conservation area.
- CA/13/02402/LB: 8 High Street, Whitstable, CT5 1BQ** Removal of existing chimney breast at front of shop and removal of existing chimney breast at rear of building. **Applicant: Wheelers Oyster Bar** Reason: Work to a listed building.
- CA/13/02403/FUL: 47 Castle Street, Canterbury, CT1 2PY** Change of use from acupuncture clinic and flat to residential dwelling without any demolition or building works. **Applicant: The Canterbury Clinic** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
- CA/13/02404/LB: 47 Castle Street, Canterbury, CT1 2PY** Change of use from acupuncture clinic and flat to residential dwelling without any demolition or building works. **Applicant: The Canterbury Clinic** Reason: Work to a listed building.
- CA/13/02412/FUL: Pilgrims Way, Stodmarsh Road, Wickhambreaux, CT3 4BA** Proposed rear extension. **Applicant: Mr Nicholls** Reason: Conservation area.
- CA/13/02417/FUL: Greenacres, The Drive, Chestfield, CT5 3NW** Replacement dwelling. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs Bailey** Reason: Conservation area.
- CA/13/02433/LB: Little Breach Farm, Elham Valley Road, Barham, CT4 6LN** Erection of open porch. **Applicant: Mr Thurley and Ms Rowland** Reason: Work to a listed building.

Any representations should be submitted via public access on the planning pages of the website [www.canterbury.gov.uk/dc](http://www.canterbury.gov.uk/dc) to arrive on or before Monday 3 February 2014.

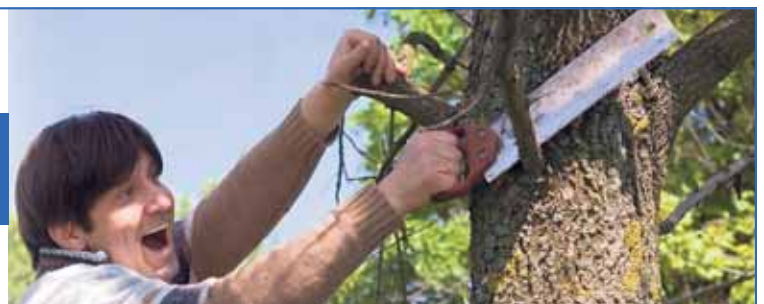
The weekly list of applications can be viewed on our website at [www.canterbury.gov.uk/dc](http://www.canterbury.gov.uk/dc)

Ian Brown, Head of Planning and Regeneration  
Friday 10 January 2014

# NEED A LOCAL TREE SURGEON?

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THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (CANTERBURY)(TRAFFIC REGULATION AND STREET PARKING PLACES)(AMENDMENT NO 1) ORDER 2014

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL propose to make the above Order under sections 1(1), 2(1) to (3), 3(2), 4(1) and (2), 32(1), 35(1), 45, 46, 49 and 53 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act.

The effect of the Order is to amend the Kent County Council (Canterbury) (Traffic Regulation and Street Parking Places) (Consolidation) Order 2013 by introducing new or varying existing parking and waiting restrictions on the following lengths of road in Canterbury:

Becket Mews	Fill in the gap in the double yellow lines
Beer Cart Lane	Late Night Taxi Rank outside the Beer Cart Arms and the Christian Science shop.
Bishops Way	Double yellow lines opposite the entrance to Joseph Conrad House
Farleigh Road	Extend the double yellow lines to cover the whole of the road
Franklyn Road and Pardoner Close	Double yellow lines at the junction
Hillside Avenue and Meadow Road	Double yellow lines at the junction
Hollowmede	Single yellow line prohibiting parking from 9am to 10am and 2pm to 3pm, Monday to Friday
Homersham	Double yellow lines at the access road to garages behind Nos 1 to 25a Homersham
Manwood Avenue	Double yellow lines between The Crescent and Hales Drive
New Street (Wincheap)	Extend double yellow lines on the southern side
Old Dover Road	Replace the parking bays between Nackington Road and The Gate Inn with single yellow line prohibiting parking between 9am to 10am and 2pm to 3pm
St Jacobs Place	Extend double yellow lines outside Barnes Court and along the whole of the north-eastern side
Station Road West	Move the parking bays to the opposite side of the road
The Terrace	Single yellow line along the northern side and two hour parking bays on the southern side
Tyler Close	Double yellow lines
On-street pay and display parking	Increase the cost of parking by 20p to £1.30 per hour

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (HERNE BAY)(TRAFFIC REGULATION AND STREET PARKING PLACES)(AMENDMENT NO 1) ORDER 2014

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL propose to make the above Order under sections 1(1), 2(1) to (3), 3(2), 4(1) and (2), 32(1), 35(1), 45, 46, 49 and 53 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act.

The effect of the Order is to amend the Kent County Council (Herne Bay) (Traffic Regulation and Street Parking Places) (Consolidation) Order 2013 by introducing new or varying existing parking and waiting restrictions on the following lengths of road in Herne Bay:

Beach Street	Disabled parking bay between Busy Bs and High Street
Beach Street	Loading bay outside Busy Bs
Central Parade	Increase the cost of on-street pay and display parking by 10p to 80p per hour.
Clarence Street and Oxenden Square	Double yellow lines at the junction
Cornwall Road	Extend double yellow lines near the junction with Coulter Road
Dove Close & Aspen Road	Double yellow lines at the junction
Eddington Lane	Double yellow lines on the northern side between Eddington Way and Cobblers Bridge Road
Fitzgerald Avenue	Single yellow line outside Nos 48 to 54
Gordon Road	Residents' parking bays at the entrance to Station Chine
Greenhill Road	Limit parking in the lay-by outside Nos 84 to 88 to 30 minutes
Greenhill Road and Blackburn Road	Double yellow lines at the junction
Linden Avenue	Single yellow line outside 1, 1a, 2 and 4 prohibiting parking 11am to 12 noon
Margate Road	Double yellow lines between the Old Thanet Way and Willow Farm Way
Mickleburgh Hill and Thundersland Road	Double yellow lines at the junction
Mill View Road	Extend double yellow lines between Canterbury Road and Strode Park Road
Reculver Road	Extend double yellow lines outside No 93
Reculver Road and Glenbervie Drive	Double yellow lines opposite the junction
Ridley Close	Double yellow lines at the junction with Herne Street
School Lane, Herne	Extend double yellow lines outside Nos 68 to 78 School Lane
Sea Street	Double yellow lines outside The Willows and the Beacon Church
Station Road	Extend parking bays between High Street and St George's Terrace
Steed Close	Double yellow lines in the turning heads
The Broadway and Central Avenue	Double yellow lines at the junction
Various roads	Change all one hour parking bays in Herne Bay to two hour bays

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (WHITSTABLE) (TRAFFIC REGULATION AND STREET PARKING PLACES) (AMENDMENT NO 1) ORDER 2014

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL propose to make the above Order under sections 1(1), 2(1) to (3), 3(2), 4(1) and (2), 32(1), 35(1), 45, 46, 49 and 53 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act.

The effect of the Order is to amend the Kent County Council (Whitstable) (Traffic Regulation and Street Parking Places) (Consolidation) Order 2013 by introducing new or varying existing parking and waiting restrictions on the following lengths of road in Whitstable:

Beach Walk	Increase the cost of on-street pay and display parking by 20p to 90p per hour
Clifton Road	Loading ban at the junction with Oxford Street
Genesta Avenue and Joy Lane	Double yellow lines at the junction
High Street and Oxford Street	Change the hours of the loading bays to 8.30am to 6.30pm to match the single yellow lines and the loading ban
Longfield Close	Single yellow line (no parking 9am to 10am) along the southern side
Marine Crescent	Double yellow lines opposite St Swithin's Road
Millstrood Road	Double yellow lines between Old Thanet Way and South Street
Mymms Close	Double yellow lines in the turning area outside No 5
Old Farm Close	Single and double yellow lines on the western side
Oxford Street	Extend double yellow lines between the Sir Peter Cushing and Middle Wall
Regent Street	Double yellow lines along the whole of the eastern side, free parking bays on the western side and allow parking outside Victoria Mews
Saddleton Road and Duncan Road	Double yellow lines at the junction
Sherwood Close and Sherwood Drive	Double yellow lines at the junction
St Anne's Road	One hour parking bays outside Nos 4 to 18
Suffolk Street	Extend double yellow lines opposite Norfolk Street
Summerfield Avenue and Ham Shades Lane	Double yellow lines at the junction
Terrys Lane	Loading ban

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (CANTERBURY RURAL PARISHES)(TRAFFIC REGULATION AND STREET PARKING PLACES)(AMENDMENT NO 1) ORDER 2014

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL propose to make the above Order under sections 1(1), 2(1) to (3), 3(2), 4(1) and (2), 32(1), 35(1), 45, 46, 49 and 53 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act.

The effect of the Order is to amend the Kent County Council (Canterbury Rural Parishes) (Traffic Regulation and Street Parking Places) (Consolidation) Order 2013 by introducing new or varying existing parking and waiting restrictions on the following lengths of road in rural locations in the Canterbury District:

The Street	Barham	Double yellow lines opposite the Duke of Cumberland
School Lane and Tyler Hill Road	Blean	Double yellow lines at the junction
School Lane and Chestnut Avenue	Blean	Double yellow lines at the junction
Marlow Meadows and Water Meadows	Fordwich	Double yellow lines at the junction
Jubilee Road	Littlebourne	Extend double yellow lines near the High Street
Nargate Street	Littlebourne	Disabled Parking Bay outside the doctor's surgery
High Street and Chafy Close	Sturry	Change parking bays outside Franklyn House to one hour/residents' parking bays and amend resident's parking scheme boundary
Sleigh Road	Sturry	Extend the double yellow lines at the junction with Island Road up to No 6
Island Road	Upstreet	Double yellow lines outside Nos 2 to 12 and Nos 29 to 41
Bredlands Lane	Westbere	Make the School Keep Clear marking enforceable
Pennington Close	Westbere	Double yellow lines on the eastern side

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS, CITY OF CANTERBURY) (PROHIBITION OF STOPPING ON FOOTWAY OR VERGE) ORDER 2014

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL propose to make the above Order under sections 1(1), 2(1) to (3), 3(2), 4(1) and (2), 32(1), 35(1), 45, 46, 49 and 53 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The effect of the Order is to introduce new or varying existing prohibitions of parking on footways and verges on the following lengths of road in the Canterbury District:

Canterbury Road	Herne	between the two junctions with Lower Herne Road
Ivy Place	Canterbury	on both sides for the entire length
Saddleton Road	Whitstable	between Canterbury Road and Grimshill Road
Sandown Drive, Bognor Drive and St Anne's Drive	Herne Bay	on both sides for the entire length
Sherwood Drive	Whitstable	on both sides for the entire length
Station Road and Railway Avenue	Whitstable	near the junction

Full details are contained in the draft orders which, together with a statement of the council's reasons for proposing to make the orders, a map showing the location and effect and a copy of any orders which will be amended by the proposed orders, may be examined at the Canterbury City Council Offices in Military Road, Canterbury during normal office hours.

If you wish to object to the proposed orders you should write, stating the grounds for your objection, to the Transportation Manager, Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury, CT1 1YW. Alternatively you may email your response to richard.jenkins@canterbury.gov.uk Your submission must be received by noon on Monday 3 February 2014.

If you have any questions concerning the proposed order or require further information please email the above address or telephone 01227 862 544 Monday to Friday 8.30am to 4.30pm.

This Notice is published on behalf of Kent County Council, Highways and Transportation, Enterprise and Environment, County Hall, Maidstone, ME14 2XQ



# Are you ready for 2014? Here's what to expect...

There is no let-up in the sports calendar, with plenty to look forward to in 2014, not least the Winter Olympics and the Commonwealth Games. **Greg Miles** picks out the highlights for the year ahead.

**2**013 proved to be another year to remember as far as sport is concerned and there is every reason to believe this year could top it.

There is plenty to get excited about, with three international events, the Winter Olympics, Commonwealth Games and European Athletics Championships that will all hopefully have plenty of Kentish involvement.

The county's presence in motorsport will be as strong as ever, with Shane 'Shakey' Byrne coming back to British Superbikes and Wrotham's Motorbase Performance going all guns blazing into the British Touring Car Championships.

It is never dull in Medway, where the mighty Gills will be looking to cement their League One status with Peter Taylor at the helm.

Kent County Cricket Club are back under the leadership of Rob Key. After difficult times on and off the pitch in recent years, will it finally be the county's time to shine?

We certainly hope so...

## WINTER OLYMPICS

THE first major event on the horizon is the Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia, and it comes with the genuine chance of a gold medal for Sevenoaks adrenaline junkie Lizzy Yarnold.

The 25-year-old bob-skeleton racer has been in impressive form throughout the World Cup series this season and is the world number one.

Her path to the top is a remarkable one, with her having only taken up the sport several years ago. Previously she had trained as a heptathlete.

Her shot at a medal comes from February 13-15, when she has two runs to set the fastest total time, travelling up to speeds of 90mph, down the treacherous ice-chute.

## SUMMER COMPETITION

THE summer brings with it the next two international sporting events of the calendar, with the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow running from July 27 until August 3.

Potentially representing England in the athletics are New Romney's 1,500m runner Lisa Dobrisky and Dartford's sprinting superstar Adam Gemili, who could easily take on the 100m, 200m, or both, while he is also likely to compete in the 4x100m relay. Orpington teenager Dina Asher-Smith, who made the top three in the BBC's Young Sports Personality Of The Year award could also feature in the 100m and 4x100m relay.

England hockey captain Barry



**THE YEAR AHEAD:** Clockwise... Skeleton ace Lizzy Yarnold has Olympic hopes. Can Peter Taylor keep the Gills up? Barry Middleton in hockey action.

Middleton, who plays for Holcombe alongside Dan Fox, and Ashley Jackson are likely to take part. They are currently part of the England side out in New Delhi in India for the Hockey World League Finals, which started on January 10. They will also be key figures in England's side at the Hockey World Cup, which takes place in The Netherlands in May and June.

England will be well represented in the men's and women's bowls squads, with Sandy Hazell the current squad's captain; it has also included Deborah Baker and Wendy King at recent events.

Swale's Perry Martin, a former sen-

ior and junior national title-holder, could also be in with a shout to represent England.

A matter of weeks later, Dobrisky, Gemili and Asher-Smith will, qualification pending, again be in action in the European Athletics Championships, which take place in Zurich, Switzerland, from August 12-17.

## BYRNE IS BACK

IN motorsport, Shane 'Shakey' Byrne is again bidding to win a record fourth British Superbike Championship title.

The 36-year-old from Sheppey nar-

rowly missed out on claiming that prize back in October, having led the series for the majority of the racing season.

However, in the off-season he has announced his intention to return in a bid to add to his previous titles won in 2003, 2008 and 2012.

The only man who can set that record before him is Japanese star Ryuichi Kiyonari.

He also has three titles to his name but failed to be a competitive challenge to Byrne on his return to the series last year; that could well change, having ditched Honda for BMW for 2014.

## BTCC HOPES

WROTHAM-based Motorbase Performance had a testing 2013 in the British Touring Car Championship as they got used to their inhouse-built NGTC Ford Focus STs.

However, there were strong performances from Mat Jackson and co in their Airwaves Racing-branded team, leaving room for optimism in 2014.

They will field three cars for the season, hoping to build on the eighth- and ninth-place finishes from Jackson and team-mate Aron Smith when the season starts at Brands Hatch at the end of March.

Pictures: ADY KERRY/BRITISH BOB SKELETON ASSOCIATION



# Amputee eyeing a place on ski team after fight with cancer

After losing his leg to a rare bone disease, Matt Short has overcome great adversity and is targeting a place in the Paralympic ski team, having been inspired by the London 2012 Games. He talks to **Greg Miles** about his journey.

**M**ATT Short was the epitome of the all-action teenager. You name the sport, he played it. From representing his school at rugby, basketball and football, and being a keen skier, he could hardly have been fitter.

But just as he was making strides towards Maidstone United's first team back in 2007, he had an ankle niggle he could not shake off.

Unfortunately, it proved to be more than just the after-effects of an innocuous tackle as 'the niggle' was diagnosed as bone cancer, leading to a below-the-knee amputation.

He has far from let it stop him doing what he loves, though, and is now setting his sights on the Paralympic Games as a member of the British Disabled Ski Team's development squad.

Inspired by the 2012 Games, before which he had taken part in the torch relay, he has taken to the slopes with the 2018 Winter Games in mind.

The 23-year-old from Paddock Wood was never far from the sports field at Tunbridge Wells Grammar School, where he studied.

"There were times when I was playing seven or eight times a week," he said. "By 16 I was in the first team at school for basketball, football and rugby."

"I played for Maidstone under-16s and was training with the adult team just before I received the news. Originally we thought it was a knock I had picked up at the end of the previous season. I thought I'd just shake it off."

But it was much worse than he could have imagined as he was diagnosed with Ewing's sarcoma.

"Four months later, I was told it was quite serious," said Short. "They said I could lose my heel bone but that would lose me movement and it would be like the hind leg of a dog. Or they could amputate."

"I was told in the January about the amputation, 10 weeks before surgery. My original view was that there was no way it was happening."

"It wasn't until an hour before that I decided to have it done. It's a very aggressive type of cancer and if it breaks out of the bone it will go to your lungs."

After the operation in March 2008, Short, now a trainee solicitor, was soon back at school and taking part in sport.

"I got back on with things," he said. "At the time, I was sitting my A-levels—I had to focus quite a lot on that."

"It was a case of doing things as and when I could without pushing it too far. I lost a lot of fitness because I didn't exercise for a long time."

"Once I lost my leg, I went back to playing able-bodied sports for a while, but I wasn't able to play competitive sports. I went on to university, where I played squash a couple of times a week and I did a lot of swimming."

He had a relapse in 2010 as the cancer was found in his lungs during a routine check-up. Fortunately, it went into remission and Short got back to living his life.

**"I was fortunate enough to be a torch-runner for the Paralympics. It was a huge buzz. That 300m was the furthest I had run in six years."**

**Matt Short,**  
Paralympic skiing hopeful

**T**hen came the London 2012 Paralympics, before which he ran in the torch relay in Hastings, East Sussex. That summer proved a real turning point as it opened up a world of competitive sport that he could play.

"I was fortunate enough to be a torch-runner for the Paralympics," he said. "It was amazing. It was a huge buzz. That 300m was the furthest I had run in six years. It was a good way to start off the summer. I absolutely loved the Games and thought 'I could be doing this'."

At the Games he met members of the South African paralympic athletics team outside the stadium, which inspired him further.

One of the team was a member of the 4x100m relay world-record-holding team, Arnu Fourie, with whom he is still in touch today.

"We exchange correspondence now and again," said Short. "He balanced becoming the world-record-holder with being an accountant, which is quite an inspiration to me."

"I just bumped into him outside the stadium and said I'm going to chance it and see who he is."

"Without knowing who he was, we spent 20 minutes chatting. That's what I liked about the Paralympics—it wasn't micromanaged like the Olympics. Athletes were just wandering around in their tracksuits."

Before the Games, there was a big push for disabled athletes to take part in paralympic taster events so talent could be identified. Short signed up, but sadly his event was cancelled.

"They sent an email around telling us about the options and I got contacted by the para-triathlon people and fencing. But I thought I would like to do skiing and pursued it myself after the Games."

An email to the British Disabled Ski Team in autumn 2012 led to an invitation to a fund-raising event where he got the chance to ski in front of the



**POTENTIAL:** Matt Short, with his specialist ski leg and the consultant prosthetist Abdo Haidar, from the London Prosthetics Centre, who fitted it

## Charity started to help others

AFTER being diagnosed with the bone cancer Ewing's sarcoma, Matt Short took it on himself to try to help others with the same condition.

He set up his own charity, the Ewing's Sarcoma Trust, to raise awareness of what is one of the rarer forms of cancer, affecting about 80 people a year in the UK.

Through the charity's website [www.ewings-sarcoma.org.uk](http://www.ewings-sarcoma.org.uk), he offers advice and help to people with the disease and their families.

He has also raised thousands of pounds towards research into the treatment of the disease with the help of family, friends and colleagues and celebrity support from Holby City star Duncan Pow.

Ewing's sarcoma typically affects teenagers and young adults. The majority of those with the condition are male.

team's coaches. Having been impressed with what they saw, they invited him to an indoor ski dome in The Netherlands for a classification test that put him inside the top 100 in the world in the standing-men category. Since then, he has raced regularly at events around Europe.

He has picked up some valuable experience along the way, taking advice from Paul McCartney's ex-wife Heather Mills-McCartney, who was set to go to the Sochi Paralympics in March.

However, the 45-year-old has since quit after a row with the International Paralympic Committee over the regulations of a new ski boot with which had been competing.

It was with her advice that he visited the London Prosthetic Centre to get a new leg suitable for skiing.

Sochi came too soon for Short, but there is plenty of time before the 2018 Games in Pyeongchang, South Korea. "I only started racing in November 2012 and so I'm a little bit late for Sochi, but there's potential for 2018."

"It all depends how much I can put into it. I start work at the end of February full-time. They have been very supportive of my aspirations."

"I feel like I have got the technique, the strength and the mental understanding to progress."



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